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Arab-Israeli Talks

U.S. Team Arrives in Amman for Tripartite Meeting

U.S. Economic Official Arrives

JN1907074394 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 19 Jul 94 pp 1, 29

[Text] PETRA—Joan Spero, U.S. under secretary of state for economic affairs, arrived in Amman yesterday. She is a member of the U.S. delegation to the tripartite meeting which will be held tomorrow the Dead Sea Hotel with the foreign ministers of Jordan, the United States, and Israel. This meeting comes within the framework of efforts to speed up the peace process through support for regional and national development projects.

Responding to a question by a Jordanian News Agency correspondent, Spero said that she is happy with the progress achieved in the bilateral peace negotiations. She noted that the U.S. secretary of state's visit and his talks will be promising and carry good signs.

Spero was received at Queen 'Alia International Airport by Nayif al-Hadid, the Foreign Ministry's secretary general; a number of senior Foreign Ministry officials; the U.S. ambassador in Amman; and embassy staff.

Christopher Arrives

JN2007084594 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0800 GMT 20 Jul 94

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher arrived in Amman from Damascus today on the third leg of his tour in the region aimed at accelerating the Middle East peace process. He was received on arrival by Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, prime minister and foreign minister; Talal Sat'an al-Hasan, minister of state for foreign affairs; and the U.S. ambassador in Amman. Christopher went to the Royal Hashemite Court to meet with His Majesty King Husayn.

The U.S. secretary will participate in the Tripartite Jordanian-U.S.-Israeli Commission meetings that will begin this afternoon at the Dead Sea Hotel. The Jordanian side to these meetings will be led by Dr. al-Majali, the U.S. side will be led by Christopher, and the Israeli side will be led by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres.

The meetings will discuss future economic projects for the development of the Jordan Valley area. The heads of delegations will meet at an inaugural session that will be relayed live by the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan's Radio and the Jordanian Television.

Delegations heads Dr. al-Majali, Christopher, and Peres will deliver speeches on this session, to be followed by a closed meeting for the heads of delegations in addition to two members and a rapporteur from each side. Following this meeting, the three delegations heads will hold a joint news conference, followed by the experts committee.

'Unofficial' Expert Talks Begin

JN2007091494 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0900 GMT 20 Jul 94

[Text] An unofficial tripartite meeting is currently under way on the experts level at the Dead Sea Hotel to discuss the issues that will be tackled by the expanded tripartite meetings on the foreign ministers level, which will begin after 1400 [1100 GMT] today.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, prime minister and foreign minister; Warren Christopher, U.S. secretary of state; and Shim'on Peres, Israeli foreign minister, will participate in these meetings.

Two Days of Jordanian-Israeli Talks Conclude

Expert Subcommittee Formed

JN1907133094 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 19 Jul 94

[Report by Randah Habib from Amman]

[Text] Two days of Jordanian-Israeli talks in a tent straddling the truce line in Wadi al-'Arabah concluded a short while ago. The two sides said the historic talks were held in a cordial and positive atmosphere. The chief Jordanian and Israeli delegates Fayiz al-Tarawinah and Elyaqim Rubinstein are now in the middle of a news conference answering questions from some 200 Arab and foreign correspondents about the outcome of the negotiations.

One of the most important results of the talks is the formation of an expert-level subcommittee. The committee will be in permanent session and will be tasked with one of the most delicate issues at the negotiating table—delineating the borders on the ground. This is in addition to water-sharing, security, energy, and the environment. On the border issue, the Israeli chief delegate's answers were too general and ambiguous. Mr. Rubinstein contended that with the exception of a small piece of territory, these borders had not been demarcated in the past. Discussions on this matter, said Rubinstein, will prove time-consuming. He hopes, however, it will be possible to arrive at satisfactory conclusions in the end.

Meanwhile, Marwan al-Mu'ashshir, official spokesman for the Jordanian delegation, reacted by saying the Israeli characterization was inaccurate and that the borders could be delineated based on the maps of the British mandate. Al-Tarawinah said the negotiations at Wadi al-'Arabah were aimed at a final delineation of the borders and resolving all pending issues before a peace treaty was concluded. This is Randah Habib reporting for Radio Monte Carlo from the armistice line.

Subcommittees Meet

JN1907143094 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 19 Jul 94

[Text] Subcommittees formed by Jordanian and Israeli negotiators at Wadi al-'Arabah met this afternoon for a further discussion of the topics listed on their agenda—the borders, security, energy, and environment.

The chief Jordanian and Israeli negotiators are scheduled to hold a joint news conference at the conclusion of the meetings of the subcommittees at around 1800 [1500 GMT], which will be carried live.

Negotiators Hold News Conference

JN1907173394 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1602 GMT 19 Jul 94

[News conference by Dr. Fayiz al-Tarawinah, head of the Jordanian delegation, and Dr. Elyaqim Rubinstein, head of the Israeli delegation, with unidentified correspondents at the conclusion of the second day of the Israeli-Jordanian talks in Wadi al-'Arabah—live]

[Text] [Marwan al-Mu'ashshir, spokesman for the Jordanian delegation] Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. Before I start the press conference, I'd like to introduce the people on the podium. Of course, on the Jordanian side, to my left is Dr. Fayiz al-Tarawinah, head of the Jordanian delegation. And then immediately behind him is Dr. Mundhir Haddadin, head of the subcommission on water, energy, and the environment; General Tahsin Shurdum, head of the sub-committee on security; Dr. 'Abdallah Tuqan, head of the boundary sub-commission; and Dr. Ibrahim Badran, coordinator general of the peace process at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

[Unidentified Israeli delegation spokesman] Good afternoon, let me do likewise on our side. To my right is Mr. Ely Rubinstein, the head of our delegation. Immediately behind him is Mr. Eytan Bentzur, the deputy to Mr. Rubinstein. To his left is General Uzi Dayan, and he is the head of the sub-commission on security. To his left is Mr. Noah Kinawpi, and he is the head of our sub-commission on water, and to his left is Mr. Moshe Kokhonovsky, and he is the head of the sub-commission on borders. Thank you.

[Al-Mu'ashshir] We have a joint statement at the conclusion of our two days of deliberations. It was agreed that Dr. al-Tarawinah will read the joint statement, and then Ambassador Rubinstein will follow with some comments of his own. In the interest of time and due to the fact that we have to leave, I'm sure you're all ready to leave by now, we will limit the questions to two questions from each side. We also have copies of the statement for you afterwards. Thank you.

[Al-Tarawinah] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. [preceding sentence in Arabic]

The delegations of Israel and Jordan met in the boundary area north of 'Aqabah and Elat on July 18-19 1994 to continue their bilateral peace negotiations. They confirmed the already established commission on boundaries, security, water, environment, and related issues, such as energy, and the sub-agendas on security, borders, and territorial matters, water, environment, and related issues, signed in Washington on June 7 1994.

The work was divided into three major sub-commissions: sub-commission on boundaries, sub-commission on security, and sub-commission on water, environment, and related issues, like energy.

The two sides have agreed as follows:

1. The talks will resume on a continuous basis, starting August 8 1994, and will proceed in the plenary commission, sub-commission, and any other agreed groups. The negotiations will alternate between the Israeli Dead Sea works and the Jordanian potash township, starting on the Israeli side for the next session. The next session on boundary, however, will take place in the boundary area where our negotiations took place this time.

2. The boundary work will start by the preparation of joint maps and additional material by a joint team of experts in accordance with a memorandum which has been concluded. Modalities of production of joint maps and additional materials on the Jordan-Israeli boundary have been worked out. The sub-commission will become the boundary maintenance and administration commission after the peace negotiations culminate in a treaty of peace, as stipulated in the common agenda.

3. Security: The Jordanian and Israeli teams to the security sub-commission focused in their detailed deliberations on the following: Examination of the practical implication of the element that constitutes the security sub-agenda approved in Washington June 7, 1994. A thorough review of these implications indicates that there is a broad understanding on these matters. Discussions were held on the issues of confidence-building measures. Specific measures have been jointly examined. Both parties agree to continue their discussions in the next bilateral session in order to reach agreement on the subjects on their common security sub-agenda.

The two sides expressed their full satisfaction from the excellent and productive spirit that prevailed (?over) and hence facilitates progress in this important issue.

4 A. Water:

1. The sub-commission for water, energy, and the environment, having discussed the issue of water, first agree to mutually recognize as a result of the negotiations the rightful allocations of the two sides in Jordan River and Yarmuk River waters and to fully respect and comply with the negotiated rightful allocations in accordance with agreed, acceptable principles with mutual acceptable quality.

2. Stress the importance and the need to minimize wastage of water resources throughout the chain of their uses.

3. Stress the need to make more water available for use as soon as possible.

4. Agree to share, where appropriate, the available data on shared water resources and to review potentials for enhancement of water resources, development, and use.

5. Accepted the principle that the water issues along the entire border must be dealt with in their totality , including the possibility of trans-boundary water transfers.

6. Accepted the principle of mutual prevention of harm to the water resources of the other party.

4 B. Environment: Jordan and Israel acknowledge the importance of the ecology of the region, its high environmental sensitivity and the need to protect the environment and prevent danger and risks for health and well-being of the region's population. They both recognize the need for conservation of natural resources, protection of biodiversity and the imperative of attaining economic growth based on sustainable development principles.

In light of the above, both parties agree to cooperate in matters relating to environmental protection in general and to those that they may mutually affect them. Areas of such cooperation which deem [as heard] to refelct common understanding have been detailed at the referendum [as heard] for timely agreement on activities, projects, and geographical spread thereof.

4 C. Energy: The parties refer to energy topics having the potential of bilateral future cooperation comprising energy generation such as oil shale utilization, solar energy for power generation, and inter-connection of grids.

5. The parties agreed that negotiation on economic matters will continue in order to prepare for future bilateral cooperation.

End of the statement, thank you.

[Elyaqim Rubinstein] Well, ladies and gentlemen, with God's help, we have reached this joint statement which was read by my friend and colleague Ambassador al-Tarawinah on behalf of both delegations. In fact nobody could read it in a nicer way so I am glad that he did it.

The joint statement that we have now initialed is a balanced document which reflects the wishes and concerns of both parties in a balanced way; and of course it is aimed to pave the way not only to the negotiations that we are going to conduct, God willing, in the next meeting and all, but to pave the way for the more important, high level meetings that are taking place this week and next week: tomorrow between the prime minister of Jordan, the foreign minister of Israel, and the secretary of state of the United States; and on Monday [25 July] between His Majesty King Husayn, prime minister of Israel, and they will be hosted by President Clinton.

There are subjects which have been underlined more by the Jordanian side; there are subjects that, may be, underlined more by the Israeli side. We tried our best to find the right mix between the approaches, and of course there are many similarities. It is not that we come from different points of view; we come from one combined point of view, the point of view of peace. And we are working to the same end, which is, hopefully, the treaty of peace.

The teams, the sub-commissions, the professional experts have prepared working papers on a number of issues and this will serve as a basis for our next deliberations. I would also like to note our happiness that the next meetings will be hosted by us and then of course by our colleagues. This development, which is a natural flow from this environment, as we come to walk more and more closely with each other, to reach our common goals, is of course a positive development.

I would like to thank our colleagues on the Jordanian side, and of course my colleagues on the Israeli side. Ourselves, our colleagues and the delegations will be ready to respond to a few questions as stipulated before. We hope that this important statement, as we see it, will be yet another milestone in this way that we are all walking on to pave and prepare to reach peace. Thank you very much.

[Correspondent] [Words indistinct] tell us why did you delay this press conference five hours till now? Was there any problem, please?

[Rubinstein] [Words indistinct]

[Al-Tarawinah, interrupting] So that we can listen to this balanced statement in this form. Thank you.

[Rubinstein] (?A la peace cum a la peace) takes time. [sentence as heard].

[Correspondent] Dr. al-Tarawinah: Is it possible or even likely that Jordan may implement some of those projects in the area of cooperation, in environmental protection, and so on, even before a peace treaty has been achieved?

[Al-Tarawinah] Well, it is for mutual understanding. And as we finalize these things hopefully with the deliberations that we will have next session and the continuous negotiation mode, as we feel, both of us, that there are certain things that will be beneficial to both sides, I think we can do that.

[Correspondent] I think the question will be to either Dr. Rubinstein or Dr. al-Tarawinah: The documents emphasize that the need for a balanced statement and talks alot about mutual recognition of their rights. From what we understand before these talks, it was Jordan who was talking about Israeli-occupied land. It was Jordan which was talking about Israel taking more than its fair share of

water rights; for example that Jordan gets no water—we understand from the Jordanians—from the Jordan River.

Now, does Israel also say that Jordan has occupied Israeli land? Does Israel say that Jordan is taking some of Israel's share of the water resources, or is this going to involve concessions by the Israelis in the process of negotiations? Thank you.

[Rubinstein] I would just like to underline it. This is a negotiation with really a mutuality. That is, what we are looking for is to reach a fair solution for our problems in terms of boundaries, water, and many other issues in a balanced way, in a fair way, and, of course, whatever will be agreed in the negotiations will be complied with and fulfilled by both sides. We can, of course, commit our government. I am sure this applies to the Jordanian Government. I would leave the specifics of the negotiations on both these issues and on other issues to the negotiating table and the negotiating room.

This is recommended not because there is something to hide but because negotiations have their own background, have their own details. There is no reason, good reason, to come with every little detail before the negotiations or during them. We hope that the results will be satisfactory to everybody.

[Correspondent] Without talking [word indistinct] details—I know those are from negotiations—could you talk about the spirit of the negotiations? Do you think that Israel will have to make concessions, that you have to give back something in order for these negotiations to [words indistinct] not the negotiations, the spirit as far as Israelis are concerned?

[Rubinstein] The negotiations are a mutual process, that is, both sides will have to study the position of the other side, try to protect its own interests but also to accommodate the other side to reach agreement. It is a mutual process. A mutual process means reaching an agreement. This is what we are after, Thank you.

[Correspondent] Gentlemen Mr. al-Tarawinah and Mr. Rubinstein, what are the considerations behind choosing the location for the next round of the negotiations in an uninhibited area of the dead sea on the Israeli side and the potash factory of the Jordanian side and not in places more inhabited like Elat and al-'Aqabah or Amman and Tel Aviv for example?

[Al-Tarawinah] Well, as you witness, our mobility here is so high, and we need a place that we can move so that it would be for the efficiency. I think it will produce more efficient results.

[Unidentified spokesman] We will take one last question from each side.

[Rubinstein] I would say just that we are unfolding, we are opening, we are doing things better, God willing. Give it a chance. Now and the next session, we hope to walk well there, we'll see later. Why the rush?

[Unidentified speaker] Ghadir Tahir.

[Correspondent Ghadir Tahir] I'd like to address my question to the heads of the border commission. Mr. Rubinstein said yesterday that there's no one alive that knows where the border is. Can you tell us how detailed are the mandate documents and maps? And, is security a criteria when it comes to drawing this border?

[Unidentified Israeli official] So far, we have not tackled the substantive issues of the boundaries. What we are doing—and I think quite successfully—is creating the mechanism, the tools, that will help us to cope with the substantive matters. So, we cannot be more specific on that issue than what I have just said.

[Dr. 'Abdallah Tuqan, head of the boundary subcommittee] Regarding the answer to that, the mandate agreement between the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the United Kingdom of 1922 and 1928 quite specifically wrote it in words—when they mentioned up the center. So, there is really quite a few interpretations for that. But this is also subject to our production of maps and further analysis to determine the—let's say—physical features as well as determining the points upon which this will define the boundary.

Regarding the second part of the question, categorically we do not recognize security to be the criteria to draw borders. This is an issue of sovereignty. Boundaries are the most significant manifestations of territorial sovereignty and jurisdiction. Hence, security is completely out of it. Once we define our boundaries, then we talk about security arrangements.

[Unidentified speaker] Okay. Mr. Avi Dan, please.

[Correspondent Avi Dan] I'd like to address both chairmen, and ask: What is, in your opinion, the easier spheres or points on the agenda that upon which both parties could reach agreement in the foreseeable future vis-a-vis the more difficult ones. But in what particular points you think, we can see within like a couple of weeks some sort of an agreement maybe being carried out. Thank you.

[Al-Tarawinah] As far as I'm concerned, there is.... [pauses] I don't look at things as easy and difficult. We agreed that all the items are on the agenda, and we have now the mechanism to simultaneously—through the sub-commissions and the different mechanisms that we have—we will discuss them all, regardless of the complexities involved. I think if one wants to be complicated, he can complicate our life. But with the spirit that we are in for the last two days—and we are resuming the negotiations very soon, and it will be continuous—and with the good spirit and in faith, I think we can overcome all the difficulties that we have.

[Rubinstein] Well, I would like to associate myself basically with what Dr. al-Tarawinah just said. Of course, objectively, there are issues that may be more complex, and other issues that may be of less complexity. Since we

have a specific goal to package things into a treaty of peace, we would like to treat them all in a balanced way. Of course, with the ability to see, as mentioned before, what could be implemented, even ahead of the final touch of the treaty, but our work is on all of them, and everybody knows there are some which are more complex than others. Thank you.

[Unidentified speaker] Ladies and gentlemen: Thank you very much.

Rubenstein Comments on Talks

TA2007063794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 20 Jul 94

[Telephone interview with Dr. Elyaqim Rubinstein, head of the Israeli delegation to the talks with Jordan, by Karmit Gay; place not given—live]

[Text] [Gay] We will not ask you about your impressions as a tourist in Jordan, but about what happened in the talks in 'En 'Avrona yesterday. There is a feeling that history is being made and even a feeling of euphoria, yet the prime minister keeps saying that we should lower our expectations and that an agreement will not be achieved overnight. How do you reconcile the two?

[Rubinstein] First of all, there must be a balance between the two. Although in recent years Israelis have been witnessing a flurry of historic and landmark events, they should bear in mind that the visit of an Israeli foreign minister on Jordanian soil in broad daylight—as will be the case today—is an important event, as is next week's meeting between Prime Minister Rabin and King Husayn in Washington. Such symbolic landmarks, with which the path to peace is paved, are important. On the other hand, Jordan is a very cautious country which weighs its moves very carefully. We know the Jordanians and appreciate their difficulties because of their geographic location and the neighbors surrounding it. Therefore, a balance must be found between a process replete with innovative and historic landmarks and the nitty-gritty of complex negotiations. Indeed, the items on the agenda of the negotiations are not easy. We must bear in mind that there is no room for euphoria, but there is room for satisfaction about the progress being made.

[Gay] I would like to ask you about the committees set up. In the negotiations with Jordan, security issues would seem to be less significant, while more attention is devoted to the question of water distribution.

[Rubinstein] First of all, it is true that water distribution is the most complex issue. This is a tough issue in the Middle East as a whole. Between Israel and Jordan the cake, if I may call it that—I mean rain and rivers, the natural resources given by God—is not enough. They know it and we know it. The question is whether the right way can be found to emphasize the development of future resources; of course, without ignoring the fact that current resources must be properly distributed. Jordan's emphasis is on the question of distribution and rights. We understand it, but together with it we would like to expand the volume of water available in the region, to be distributed between Israel and Jordan and other neighbors. Simply, all these are tough issues. However, we believe that good will exists on both sides and that the problem can be solved.

As for the security issue, there is no need to remind Israelis that security is Israel's most cherished principle. However, in the direct contacts with Jordan the security issues are less of a bilateral and more of a global nature owing to the fact, thank God, that we have had 24 years of relative quiet on our border. This claim must now be formalized.

[Gay] Where does the demarcation of the border stand?

[Rubinstein] We have only just started working on the border. We are not yet at the stage of talking about the demarcation itself. The next phase we decided upon is that in August a joint Israeli- Jordanian team will start drawing the maps which will be the basis for the negotiations on the borderline and its actual demarcation in the field.

With your permission, I would like to add another word. Today's meeting between the foreign minister and his Jordanian counterpart to some extent heralds the closing of an important circle. The two men are almost the same age and belong to the same generation. They, as well as many of us, have been living a 90-minute drive away from each other for two generations. Nevertheless, in all those years they never held a meeting such as we are going to see today. Despite the expected prolonged negotiations and their difficulties, these landmarks are very important in order to break the barriers.

[Gay] Elyaqim Rubinstein, thank you very much.

Palestinian-Israeli Civilian Powers Talks Continue

Negotiator Comments

NC1907142194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1257 GMT 19 Jul 94

[Text] Today's session of talks between the Palestinian and Israeli delegations on the transfer of civilian powers from the Israeli side to the Palestinian self-rule authority ended at noon today.

Dr. Nabil Qassis, head of the Palestinian team on the committee in charge of transferring civilian powers, said after the session that both sides exchanged views on the early transfer of powers within the framework of the phases included in the agreement signed between the two sides. He added that they reviewed general topics concerning all aspects of the transfer and some issues regarding education in particular.

He said agreement on an early transfer of powers must be reached quietly and carefully between the Palestinian and Israeli delegations and that it must be drafted jointly.

He stressed the importance of Israeli forces withdrawing and letting the Palestinians exercise their powers. He noted the Palestinian side's eagerness to negotiate with the aim of gradually attaining Palestinian national rights that will eventually lead to the implementation of Resolution 242.

Dr. Qassis said that the Israelis raised the question of overlapping in various spheres and stressed the need to negotiate a solution to this problem. He added that the agreement on an early transfer of powers is a preliminary phase within the context of the final accord.

Sha'th Comments

NC2007093794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0840 GMT 20 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 20 Jul (MENA)—The Israeli-Palestinian negotiations on the early transfer of authority over the West Bank to the Palestinian side resumed this morning in Cairo. The Palestinian side to the negotiations is chaired by Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation in the Palestinian National Authority [PNA]. The Israeli side is chaired by Danny Rothschild, Israeli coordinator of government activities in the occupied territories.

In a statement he made before the negotiations, Dr. Nabil Sha'th affirmed the need for the PNA to be given real authority. If it does not get real authority through the early transfer of civilian powers, the Palestinians do not want it, Sha'th said. He clarified that there is a problem regarding the early transfer of power.

And he said there is a complication regarding the early transfer of authority. We do not want secondary authority; we need real, genuine authority. If we do not get that, then we have no need of it. He pointed out that the Israeli side wants to have authority over and supervise all aspects of civilian affairs. Sha'th added that today the two sides will finalize discussion of educational issues.

Dr. Sha'th affirmed that the Israeli Cabinet's decision banning any political activity by the PNA in Israel and Jerusalem is contrary to the spirit of peace and all international and local norms. It is a law concocted by the Israeli right and, unfortunately, the Israeli Government gave in to such blackmail.

The Palestinian and Israeli delegations held separate meetings last night after the second day of negotiations ended so as to evaluate the results of the negotiations. Hasan 'Usfur, a member of the Palestinian delegation, stated that Israel is placing obstacles before the negotiations.

Dr. Nabil Sha'th is expected to leave Cairo this afternoon to take part in a meeting the day after tomorrow, that is, Friday, in Gaza between Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Kuwaiti Diplomat Reacts to Saddam's Peace Initiative

NC1907162594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1345 GMT 19 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 19 Jul (MENA)—Counselor Majdi al-Zufayri, Kuwait's permanent charge d'affaires to the Arab League, stressed that Kuwait's condition for reconciliation with Iraq is that Baghdad implement all UN Security Council resolutions.

Speaking after his meeting with Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, the Kuwaiti diplomat said that Kuwait's stand on President Saddam Husayn's talk in which he referred to Iraq's desire for a peace initiative with neighboring countries is summed up in the necessity of Iraq's full compliance with international resolutions.

He stressed that Kuwait cannot accept anything less than this. He said that he handed the Arab League secretary general a complete and accurate copy of President Saddam Husayn's interview about reconciliation with neighboring countries since, according to him, the papers have not published this interview in full. He added that he discussed with Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid a number of current issues in the Arab arena.

Kuwaiti-Saudi Committee To Discuss Confederation

LD1907134894 Tehran IRNA in English 1210 GMT 19 Jul 94

[Text] London, July 19, IRNA—The rulers of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia were reported here Tuesday [19 July] to have formed a committee to discuss a confederation of their two countries. The move was said to have been prompted by the failure of the six-member Persian Gulf Cooperation Council (PGCC) to have the will or the manpower and skills for a coordinated defense strategy following the 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

According to the London GUARDIAN quoting the chairman of the Kuwaiti National Assembly's finance committee, Isma'il al-Shatti, the initiative for a union came from the emir of kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah.

The committee considering a possible confederation was said to have been in existence for six months after an overture was made to King Fahd of Saudi Arabia from the Kuwaiti ruler. It reportedly consisted of oil minister,

Hisham Nazir, finance minister, Muhammad Aba-al-Khayl and education minister, 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Khuwaytir on the Saudi side and on the other, former Kuwaiti ministers acting as senior advisers to the emir, Jasim al-Kharafi, 'Abd-al-Rahman al- 'Atiji and Dhari al-'Uthman.

The composition suggests an emphasis on an economic framework rather than a joint defense aim as proposed by the GUARDIAN's London-based correspondent, Leslie Plommer.

Speaking at the recently-formed Persian Gulf cultural club in London earlier this month, British defense analyst, Colonel Michael Dewar said that he doubted the ability of the PGCC of organizing a defense pact on their own. He said Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates had put joint security at the "bottom" of their agenda. As the first stage towards obtaining security in the Persian Gulf, the deputy director of the International Institute for Strategic Studies proposed that the six Arab countries needed to be encouraged to accept Iran as the regional power.

League Chief, Dutch Envoy View Libyan-West Crisis

NC1907101794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0950 GMT 19 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 19 Jul (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid today met Dutch Ambassador to Egypt Nikolaos van Dam.

A responsible source in the Arab League has stated that their discussion dealt with issues of common interest, primarily the promotion of the Arab-European dialogue. The two officials agreed on the need to eliminate obstacles obstructing this dialogue. The same source added that the discussion also touched on the latest developments in the Libyan-Western crisis. In this regard, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid informed the ambassador of the Arab League's view regarding this crisis, as represented by the proposal that Scottish judges try the two Libyan suspects at the International Court of Justice in the Hague. The source pointed out that the Dutch ambassador showed understanding of the Arab position and stressed that his country would not object to holding the trial in the Hague if the Arab and Western sides agreed to do so.

Islamic Affairs

Hizballah Seen Gaining Potential for Attack Abroad

MM1907162194 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 19 Jul 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Israel-Hizballah War Moved to Buenos Aires; 12 Killed in Explosion that Destroyed Jewish Establishment Buildings in Argentina"]

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, London, AL-HAYAH—Sources in Buenos Aires contacted by AL-HAYAH have said that 12 people were killed and 50 others wounded in a huge explosion targeting a building containing the offices of Jewish establishments in the center of the Argentinian capital. Israel described the explosion as "a terrorist act," accusing anti-Semitic and anti-Israeli quarters of being behind it. Security sources linked the explosion with the ongoing war between Israel and Hizballah in Lebanon. They said that this is the second time in two years that the Jewish community and Israeli interests have been targeted in Argentina, as some 30 people were killed in an explosion targeting the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires in March 1992. Hizballah had claimed responsibility for that operation, pointing out that it was in response to the assassination of its secretary general in south Lebanon, 'Abbas al-Musawi. [passage omitted]

A Western security source had told AL-HAYAH last Thursday that Hizballah in Lebanon had been given the "go-ahead" to carry out an "extraordinary" action against the Israelis to avenge the kidnapping of Mustafa al-Dirani (a resistance leader) and the attack on the training camp in al-Biqa'. The source had said that "the go-ahead was conditional on a number of things, most importantly that the revenge must be in an area very far from Lebanon and Syria, and that Hizballah should take account of the present sensitive phase in Iran's relations with a number of European states, as these relations had witnessed tension in the past because of terrorist actions (Germany and France)." The source added: "Despite all this, Hizballah has so far been unable to carry out a terrorist action. It is still trying to collect information or obtain arms and explosives to carry out a revenge action against the Israelis." The source pointed out that the passage of more than 40 days since the Israeli raid without retaliation raises questions about Western intelligence services' assessment of Hizballah's network abroad. Early estimates "pointed to the existence of a main network comprising 10 to 20 elements in six states (three of them in Europe). They are equipped with logistical capabilities enabling them to carry out a terrorist action within a short period of time." The source pointed out that Western services are interested in studying this change, "even though Western technological surveillance points to the possibility of a definite move by Hizballah to carry out a major action abroad."

ICO Issues Statement Regretting Erez Killings

LD1907193594 Riyadh SPA in English 1920 GMT 19 Jul 94

[Text] Jeddah, July 19, SPA—The Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) [ICO] expressed today its regrets over the Israeli forces' recent killing and wounding of Palestinian workers.

Israel's continuation of its persecution represents a serious violation of the autonomy agreement and is deterimental to the confidence-building atmosphere

between the two sides, said a statement issued in Jeddah by the general secretariat of the OIC.

The OIC reiterated the Islamic nation's solidarity with the just cause of the Palestinian people in the current critical phase of their struggle.

The OIC also called on the international community, specially the two sponsors of the peace process to exert the necessary efforts for putting an end to the Israeli practices.

It also urged for an urgent deployment of international observers in the autonomous areas according to the agreement signed by the Israelies and Palestinians.

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 15 Jul

NC1907180194

[Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 15 July issue of the Arabic-language newspaper Cairo AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Schoolgirl Uniform Disputed
2. Will Gaza and Jericho Islamists Form Parties?
3. National Dialogue Assessed
4. Allegations of Torture
5. Culture Ministry Blamed for Publications

SCHOOLGIRL UNIFORM DISPUTED

A 300-word report by 'Amir 'Abd-al-Mun'im on pages 1 and 7 disputes the education minister's decision to "ban the veil [face cover] and modest dress" in schools. Upon the minister's orders, schoolgirls will have to wear a uniform made up of a white shirt, a jacket in winter, a skirt "of suitable length," and possibly "upon a written request from a parent" a scarf "not covering the face."

Effectively, the minister has banned the face cover and the jilbab, a waistless full-length robe favored by the fundamentalists. The minister's decision, 'Abd-al-Mun'im states, "besides being a flagrant violation of God's edicts, runs counter to the rulings of the State Council's Administrative Courts." The courts had ruled that "the minister has no right to prevent schoolgirls from education because of what they wear," 'Abd-al-Mun'im writes.

WILL GAZA AND JERICHO ISLAMISTS FORM PARTIES?

A 1,000-word report by Muhammad Jamal 'Arafat on page 4 ponders the possibility of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and other Islamic militants forming political parties in Gaza and Jericho.

NATIONAL DIALOGUE ASSESSED

Columnist 'Adil Husayn assesses the recent national dialogue congress in a 5,000-word commentary on page 5. Although he belittles the congress' importance, Husayn congratulates the Labor Party for attending it. The party, he explains, succeeded in dodging a scenario in which the government would extract a bogus consensus from the congress and use it to bludgeon the opposition into submission. He writes:

"To start with, I would like to say that we could not describe what took place as 'national dialogue.' Such a billing was rendered meaningless, even before the congress went under way, due to the exclusion, directly or indirectly, of the Muslim Brotherhood. The vacuum worsened with the withdrawal of the Wafd Party and the Nasirite Arab Democratic Party.

"This redoubled the burden we had to bear. God is my witness that we have done our duty to the fullest. We made the participants hear a voice they were not accustomed to hear, a voice expounding the Islamic solution to all of the issues discussed.

"It is a fact that the Labor Party representatives raised the level of discussion to general and future issues instead of getting swamped in details and minor issues. It is also a fact that we presented an alternative view, one contesting the government's policies.

"Our most important achievement, however, was to call off the resolutions gimmick. The congress was designed to issue recommendations or resolutions that the majority, meaning the National Democratic Party [NDP], aspires to impose on all the participants. Such a scenario would have been a true disaster for democracy and pluralism because it would have forced all parties to abandon their programs in submission to the resolutions that the NDP issued in the congress. Once we blocked this tactic, we breathed a sigh of relief. It is not a problem if the dialogue produced no gain. The most important thing was to ensure that it did not narrow further our democratic ground, diminutive as it is."

ALLEGATIONS OF TORTURE

A 2,000-word review of a report released on 11 July by the Egyptian Organization for Human Rights appears on page 7. The report questions the causes of death of 14 people in prisons and detention centers, recounting relevant tales of torture.

A 500-word report by Subhi Buhayri on page 7 relates the experience of lawyer Ramadan Mahmud Ahmad in police custody. Ahmad claims to have been stripped of his clothes, blindfolded, hung off a tree, kicked, hit, and subjected to electric shocks.

CULTURE MINISTRY BLAMED FOR PUBLICATIONS

Dr. Mahmud Himayah, a head of the Propagations Department in the Theology College in Asyut, contributes a 2,000-word article entitled, "The Culture Minister Breaks the Red Light" on page 12. Himayah is incensed that the General Book Organization, an organ of the

Culture Ministry, should subsidize literature containing what he sees as blasphemous references. He substantiates his argument with excerpts of seven publications containing either explicit sexual language or unorthodox religious views.

Palestinian Affairs

'Great Hopes' Pinned on Christopher-'Arafat Meeting

NC1907150994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1430 GMT 19 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 19 Jul (MENA)—Zuhdi al-Qidrah, Palestinian ambassador and Fatah representative in Cairo, has stressed that the Palestinian side is pinning great hopes on U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's meeting with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat in the Gaza Strip this week to give impetus to the peace process.

In a statement to MENA, he expressed hope that Christopher will play a role in resolving the pending issues between the Palestinian and Israeli sides on the implementation of the first stage of the Oslo agreement, which deals with Israel's withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and Jericho and the implementation of self-rule in the other parts of the West Bank. He said: The United States is capable of making Israel comply with what it has agreed on in the peace process and stopping the Israeli soldiers' and settlers' provocations of Palestinian citizens. He noted that the Palestinian side is open minded and is proposing constructive ideas to serve the peace process.

Al-Qidrah said that the Palestinian side hopes that the United States will urge the donor countries to extend their financial aid quickly so that the Palestinian National Authority can fulfill its duties and responsibilities. He expressed hope that the U.S. Administration under President Bill Clinton and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will play a more effective role with the donor countries so that they will fulfill their commitments and provide financial support for the self-rule authority.

He stressed that there is full confidence in the Palestinian police's ability to face all the challenges and rejected any doubts about this ability.

Sha'th on Killing of Israeli Officer, Negotiations

NC1907191594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1825 GMT 19 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 19 Jul (MENA)—Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation in the Palestinian National Authority [PNA], stressed that no person in Gaza and Jericho is allowed to carry out any military operations because this violates the Israeli-Palestinian Declaration of Principles [DOP] and impedes the peace process.

In a statement he made today on the sidelines of the Palestinian-Israeli meetings in Cairo, Sha'th said: We are against any acts of violence that happen in the liberated areas. He noted that the PNA is responsible for law and order in the Gaza Strip and Jericho area and that it has a responsibility it must carry out.

He was commenting on the announcement by Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] claiming responsibility for the head injuries inflicted on an Israeli officer today in Rafah, Gaza Strip, which caused his death.

Dr. Sha'th criticized Israel for closing the crossing points from Gaza to Egypt. He said: Israel always acts contrary to the way to solve problems that we agreed on in the DOP. It does not have the right to close crossing points and control them and the security passageway because this violates the DOP.

He called on Israel to improve its treatment of Palestinians and expand the crossing points so that they can absorb the 20,000 to 30,000 workers who enter Israel daily and to open new crossing points.

Sha'th also called for providing international protection and deploying international observers in the occupied territories so that the clashes between the Israeli and Palestinian sides will not be repeated.

Dr. Sha'th said that the current round of Palestinian-Israeli talks in Cairo will concern the issues of early transfer to the PNA of the West Bank, the Palestinian side's takeover of administration in the civilian sectors, defining the size of the Jericho areas, the release of detainees and male and female prisoners, the deployment of a Palestinian security officer on the Rafah and Allenby crossing points, and the control of the coastal land south of Gaza.

He added that Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat will meet at his place of residence in Gaza on Thursday [21 July] with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and discuss speeding up the receipt of aid designated for the PNA because we have received only $30 million out of $270 that we were supposed to get during the first year of self- rule. President 'Arafat will also discuss with Christopher the means of implementing the other DOP clauses and the obstacles impeding this implementation.

Groups Warn Israelis Not To Enter Autonomy

TA1907181594 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 19 Jul 94

[Text] A short time ago, the rejectionist organizations in the Gaza Strip, headed by Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the Islamic Jihad, distributed a leaflet warning all Israelis against entering the autonomy. Our correspondent Shlomi Eldar reports that the leaflet also includes a call to the Palestinian Authority to prevent the entry of Israelis as a response to the closure imposed on the Gaza Strip.

Poll Shows Fatah Ahead in Self-Rule Area

NC1907202794 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 19 Jul 94

[Report by Nabil al-Khatib]

[Excerpts] A public opinion poll conducted by the Jerusalem Media and Communication Center [JMCC] in cooperation with MBC Television shows 70.2 percent of the Palestinians support continued negotiations over the implementation of self-rule throughout Palestinian land, signaling satisfaction with the PLO policy following the signing of the peace agreement and the return of Yasir 'Arafat to the self-rule areas.

The poll, the first since the self-rule agreement went into effect, shows that 56.5 percent of the Palestinians support the Cairo agreement, while 34.5 percent oppose it. [passage omitted]

The poll shows the 'Arafat-led Fatah Movement to be the most popular Palestinian group, with 40.9 percent of the Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank supporting it. The second place goes to Palestinian independent figures, with support among 16.8 percent of the polled Palestinians. A percentage of 12.9 of those polled is undecided. Hamas comes fourth, with support from 10.8 percent of the population.

[Begin JMCC director Ghassan al-Khatib recording] About one third of the Palestinian population takes no political stand on recent developments. They either support independent individuals or await a clearer picture to emerge before forming an opinion about the Palestinian authority or the agreement. [end recording]

The poll shows that Yasir 'Arafat's return to the self-rule area raised hopes in the future to 55.01 percent among Palestinians. The percentage of Palestinians saying they believe 'Arafat to be serious in his bid to free the Palestinians held in Israeli prisons is 63.2. Those saying they believe he is serious about the Jerusalem issue are only 47.3 percent. Some 41.2 of those polled say 'Arafat is not serious in this matter.

A wary Palestinian public is following closely the policies of the Palestinian National Authority [PNA]. The poll shows varied degrees of satisfaction concerning the performance of various PNA departments. The approval rate of the Palestinian police is 61.9 percent. [video script gives the preceding percentage as 70.9] That of the Economic Council is a mere 30.7 percent.

Ban Means Quray' Unable To Attend Jerusalem Talks

NC2007102794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0922 GMT 20 Jul 94

[Text] Gaza, 20 Jul (MENA)—Informed sources said here today that the Israeli Government has prevented Ahmad Quray' (Abu-'Ala'), minister of economy in the Palestinian National Authority, from entering Jerusalem to attend the Palestinian economic conference scheduled to be held today under the auspices of the Jerusalem-based Palestinian Information Institute. The conference will discuss the role of the Palestinian private sector.

Palestinian National Authority sources said the conference opening session might be held in Ramallah instead of Jerusalem to enable Abu-'Ala' to attend the opening session.

PLO Radio Praises Police Role in Erez Events

JN1907145994 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1600 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Commentary by radio's political editor: "The Palestinian Police and the Honorable National Role"—read by announcer]

[Text] The clash between Israeli occupation troops and Palestinian citizens at the Erez checkpoint, as well as the immediate intervention by the Palestinian police to protect their people's sons [words indistinct] occupation contained the incident and ended the clash after tens of enemy troops were wounded.

First of all, this serious incident unequivocally and significantly illustrates that the Palestinian police are there to protect the Palestinian citizens first and defend their interests and security, contrary to what some people said about the Palestinian police joining the enemy troops in quelling the intifadah.

Yes, this fact was very clear and was reflected by the serious incident at the Erez checkpoint. In the first practical test for their national missions, the Palestinian police carried out their national duty perfectly when they confronted the occupation troops and opened fire on them to protect our people's sons even if doing so might undermine the whole peace process.

Now that this fact has been fully confirmed, the national duty, responsibility, and supreme interest compel all Palestinian factions, organizations, parties, and masses of various orientations to contemplate well the meanings and implications of the Erez incident, particularly regarding the Palestinian police's role and heroic position, so all of us can circumvent the political, theoretical, and factional differences in order to consolidate our national unity and entrench the role of our national police which passed their first test in a decisive, clear, and unequivocal way.

Thus, the Palestinian police forces are an arm aimed to protect the Palestinian people's sons. They are also a striking arm intended to defend the Palestinians' interests, life, and dignity. If the events at the Erez checkpoint had happened in the absence of the Palestinian police, this incident undoubtedly would have turned into a real massacre, martyring and wounding tens of our people's sons, without wounding a single occupation soldier.

It is true that many of our people's sons and Palestinian policemen were wounded in this clash. In addition, two of our citizens were martyred and six of our valiant police personnel were wounded. However, tens of enemy troops sustained various injuries, and tens of Israeli buses were set ablaze. Even more important than all this is that the occupation troops were ruthlessly confronted with fire, so they can learn about their limits and realize that the Palestinian people's sons now have their own forces on their territory to protect them, provide security for them, and defend their interests.

It remains to be said that the security of the Palestinian people is above all considerations. If peace is to be soundly and truely achieved, the enemy authorities should be well aware of this fact. Security and stability for the Palestinian people means peace. Likewise, regaining all the rights of the Palestinian people also means peace. The time of occupation is over, and the time of Palestinian sovereignty and independence—whose banners were flown high by our valiant police at the Erez checkpoint—has begun. There will never be any going back, because the territory is now in our possession. We will move forward toward full freedom and independence and also toward a free and independent Palestinian state with holy Jerusalem as its capital. It is a revolution until victory.

Paper: Erez Incidents Should 'Ring an Alarm'

TA1907165994 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 18 Jul 94 p 13

[Editorial: "The Starvation Revolution!"]

[Text] Yesterday's tragic and bloody incidents at the Erez checkpoint in the Gaza Strip, in which Israeli Army bullets killed two martyrs and wounded approximately 100 persons—some seriously—from among the thousands of Palestinians who arrived at the checkpoint in search of their livelihood, affirm that peacemaking will remain a fragile slogan if the various agreements, formulas, and arrangements, as well as the actual causes that led to the bloody incidents, are not addressed. Foremost among these are the deteriorating Palestinian economic situation, Israel's attempt to control the movement of Palestinian workers by making this subject to its own special considerations and interests, and its continued treatment of Palestinians with the same old language that has no relation to peacemaking.

Israel, of course, is aware of a situation that has been confirmed by witnesses to the bloody incident: The protests expressed by thousands of Palestinian workers at the Erez checkpoint were caused by the humiliating and abusive treatment at the crossing point and by the arrangements that force Palestinian workers to wait for long periods every morning. Even more important than this is the hard line taken in granting entry permits to workers, which prevents the majority from entering, and Israel's total control of the workers' movement.

Israel, like the entire world, is also aware that the Palestinian self-authority cannot resolve the problem of widespread unemployment overnight and provide immediate jobs for tens of thousands of Palestinian workers in the absence of international aid, which remains mere promises, and at a time when the building of the Palestinian national entity is starting from zero, following the destruction of the Palestinian infrastructure by long years of occupation.

Under these circumstances, cutting the livelihood of tens of thousands of Palestinian families through Israeli control of traffic at the Erez crossing and through the closure imposed on the Gaza Strip every now and then, despite the fact that a new stage has begun, constitutes an Israeli violation of the spirit of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement and contravenes the intentions of peace and the steps required for moving along the peacemaking road.

The starvation revolution expressed yesterday by thousands of Gaza Strip workers should ring an alarm for all those interested in making peace. Israel, on one hand, and the donor countries and sponsors of the peace process on the other should remember that peacemaking is not just slogans and words or just signing agreements, but serious and real work to create a new reality that is reflected in various spheres of life. This includes providing a dignified livelihood for every Palestinian resident and looking seriously into starting to treat Palestinian workers in a new fashion and with a content that conforms with the slogan of real peace and with their legal and human rights.

AL-QUDS: Rabin-Husayn Summit Marks New Stage

TA1907160094 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 16 Jul 94 p 13

[Editorial: "An Important Step on the Jordanian-Israeli Track"]

[Text] The summit meeting that will be held in Washington, at the invitation of U.S. President Bill Clinton, between the Jordanian monarch, King Husayn, and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, both of whom have announced their acceptance of this invitation, represents a new development and an important step toward achieving a peace agreement on the Jordanian-Israeli track.

Naturally, this development was not unexpected. It was preceded by a series of developments, beginning with the Jordanian and Israeli sides' reaching and signing an agenda for negotiations, including an agreement on principles, followed by the meeting between the Israeli foreign minister and Jordan's Crown Prince Hasan, with its ensuing agreements, and then by the two sides' agreeing to transfer the bilateral talks to the region and the ongoing preparations for the opening of these talks on 18 July.

Undoubtedly, the U.S. Administration played an active role in these developments. U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's expected participation in the trilateral meeting with Jordanian Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres on 20 July represents another step that affirms the active role Washington is playing in promoting the talks on this track.

Despite various media reports that the two sides agree on most points of contention, it is clear that there are still some outstanding points, especially regarding the demarcation of borders, the resolution of the dispute over Jordanian territories occupied by Israel, and the water issue.

The scheduling of the summit for 25 July, one week after the resumption of bilateral talks in which Christopher will also participate, indicates that the results of these talks will have a decisive impact on the success of the first public summit between a Jordanian monarch and an Israeli prime minister.

In sum, with this new development, the peace process is facing a new stage. If the Madrid Conference defined the aims of the peace process—namely, the achievement of a comprehensive and just peace on the various negotiating tracks—this development definitely represents a new step toward achieving this goal.

'Abbas: PLO Has 'No Objection to What Jordan Is Doing'

MM1907105194 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 17 Jul 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Abu-Mazin Tells AL-HAYAH Jordan Doing What We Did"]

[Text] Tunis, AL-HAYAH—PLO Executive Committee Member Mahmud 'Abbas (Abu-Mazin) has told AL-HAYAH that "what is happening now between Jordan and Israel is very normal. Jordan previously signed an agenda with Israel, and then another signing took place between Israel and the PLO on 14 September 1993. And at present negotiations are being conducted to complete what the two sides started."

Asked whether what is happening now is tantamount to a war among the various tracks, he said: "From the outset we have said that the Arab tracks are different in terms of their nature, characteristics, and difficulties. And if one track overtakes another, it does not mean that one party has abandoned another, as long as the comprehensive peace can only be completed by the withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories and the restoration of the rights to their owners. This is why we have no objection to what Jordan is doing these days, as we did something similar to what they are doing now. And we hope our Syrian and Lebanese brothers will reach positive results in order to recover their rights so that we all can achieve the ultimate common aim."

'Ashrawi Calls For Committee on Jerusalem Activity

TA1907124794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 19 Jul 94

[Text] Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi has called for the establishment of a joint Palestinian-Israeli committee to handle Palestinian political activity in the eastern part of the city on the basis of the understandings with Israel.

Dr. 'Ashrawi told our correspondent Moti Amir that agreement on the basis for such a committee was reached in PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's first meeting with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin in Cairo and in meetings between Faysal al-Husayni and Minister Moshe Shahal.

'Ashrawi asserts that such a committee will be able to distinguish the kind of Palestinian political activity that has existed in East Jerusalem from the political activities of the autonomy authority.

'Arafat Asks al-Shawwa To Head Gaza Council

TA1907130594 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 19 Jul 94 p 1

[Text] Gaza—An official Palestinian source has stated that after the seven-month sincere efforts to form a Gaza Municipal Council have faltered, President Yasir 'Arafat is conducting intensive consultations aimed at setting up a temporary council, comprised of independent elements, to operate until municipal elections are held and to run the municipality, meet urgent needs, and plan for the rebuilding of the administrative and organizational infrastructure in order to absorb the expected development projects and raise the level of services.

The source added that President 'Arafat has appointed 'Awn al-Shawwa, member of the economic delegation and director of economic development in the Cooperative Development Project, to set up this temporary council.

'Abd-Rabbuh on Democracy, Press, Other Issues

JN1907131294 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0745 GMT 19 Jul 94

[Interview with Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, Palestinian "minister of culture, information, and arts," identified by his nom de guerre Abu-Bashshar, by an unidentified correspondent in the studio in Jericho—live or recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Ladies and Gentlemen: We have with us in the studio now brother Abu-Bashshar [Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh], minister of culture, information, and arts. You are welcome.

['Abd-Rabbuh] Thank you.

[Correspondent] Abu-Bashshar, you are in the radio's studios in Jericho and before the Voice of Palestine's microphone. How does it feel to sit in front of the Voice of Palestine microphone?

['Abd-Rabbuh] This is my first day on the homeland's soil in Jericho. This is the first day on which I can address our people directly through the Voice of Palestine on the land of Palestine. We do not just say that we are proud for we also feel the heavy burden and the responsibility of each one of us to reactivate the Voice of Palestine which has been absent for several decades, so that the world can hear it on the largest possible scale. I meet here today with the brothers who work at the Voice of Palestine. Each one of them is full of enthusiasm and the hope of making the Voice of Palestine into an exemplary radio, a forum for Palestinian democracy, and a forum for the Palestinian people's objectives of getting rid of the occupation, and of establishing the independent state of Palestine from Rafah to Janin, with holy Jerusalem in its heart.

[Correspondent] Brother Abu-Bashshar, let us now begin with some political questions. We will seize the opportunity of your presence with us to ask you about your comment on the Erez incidents which took place the day before yesterday?

['Abd-Rabbuh] This is some of the fruits of the policy of occupation throughout 27 years. It is the policy of starvation and the destruction of the infrastructure. It is also the policy of continuous persecution and humiliation of the Palestinian people and workers. Anger exploded at the Erez due to the maltreatment of tens of thousands of Palestinian workers as a result of denying them livelihood and as a result of the continuous humiliation against them although what they get is very little. I believe that what has been said about the incident by the Israeli side are all fabricated rumors. There is an attempt to look at the incident from a security angle and to propose security solutions to this situation. The occupation has tried security solutions over the past years. The only solution is to give our workers their natural rights to work, to free movement, and to removing the obstacles that are being placed in front of our people and workers at all crossings.

[Correspondent] Brother Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, yesterday, the Israeli Government made a decision banning political Palestinian activity in Jerusalem. Don't you see that this decision is an Israeli attempt in advance to settle the issue of Jerusalem before discussing it at the negotiations?

['Abd-Rabbuh] First of all, this decision conflicts with all the agreements we have reached. It also conflicts with the Israeli Government's commitments to respecting the role of the various Palestinian institutions in Jerusalem. This decision is also a flagrant encroachment on the political and humanitarian rights of the Palestinians in Jerusalem. This should be added to other encroachments on the valiant sons of Jerusalem. We believe that this decision is part of the Israeli Government's policy to impose the status quo in the city of Jerusalem. Our people in Jerusalem will not follow this decision. Moreover, the Palestinian National Authority will reject this decision.

[Correspondent] Brother Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, in your capacity as an information minister, some Palestinian parties express fears of not exercising democracy by the Palestinian media organs. What is your reply to these fears?

['Abd-Rabbuh] I believe that our democratic experiment needs to be developed. This experiment will develop through practice. I think we are the side which should be worried more if the media experiment does not live up to the expectations of our Palestinian people on the Palestinian land and outside the homeland. Therefore, the news media, including the Palestinian radio, will be concerned more about versatility and about giving every Palestinian voice, opposition voice, or any other voices which want to express the desire of a group in the Palestinian society, the chance to express their views and stands toward this or that issue. We want the Palestinian media to reflect the real situation of the Palestinian society, its wishes, and aspirations. In light of this, among the measures which we will take is the formation of a general board of trustees for the Palestinian radio and television. This board will include representatives of all the political and social groups and sectors in the Palestinian society, regardless of their ideological or political stands, women, students, workers, merchants, men of religion, intellectuals, and others.

[Correspondent] This is regarding the electronic news media, what about the printed media?

['Abd-Rabbuh] The printed media have full freedom. The Information Ministry will play no role in directing or even supervising the printed press.

[Correspondent] Are you going to censor the newspapers?

['Abd-Rabbuh] I said that no role will be played, whether in directing or even supervising the press. The press has full freedom in expressing its views. The Information Ministry's task is to help the news media regardless of their stands or policies to enable them to address the largest possible sector in the Palestinian society. Even regarding the radio and television, direction and supervision will take place through an independent board of trustees representing the various sectors and groups of the Palestinian people, and not through administrative or functional organs affiliated with the Information Ministry or with other institutions.

[Correspondent] Brother Yasir, some sides call for party and media pluralism. Are you going to allow the opening of privately owned newspapers and media institutions?

['Abd-Rabbuh] Certainly, the newspapers and media institutions constitute a right to which everyone is entitled if the minimum conditions are met. The minimum conditions are those which guarantee the rights of workers at these institutions. Other than this, there are no conditions.

[Correspondent] There are unemployed journalists. What are the plans and programs you have prepared to absorb these journalists in the future Palestinian journalistic institutions?

['Abd-Rabbuh] This is an issue on which we should consult with the brothers working in the various media fields and in the media and cultural institutions. We have no new solutions. During the few next weeks, we will hold one general congress for the Palestinian intellectuals and another for the Palestinian media men in order to help draw an urgent plan to develop the news media and to secure support for them to enable them to serve our people and to act as a mirror which reflects our people's stands.

[Correspondent] The brothers in the cultural institutions will now accuse us of having devoted the biggest part of this interview to speaking about the news media. What about the cultural institutions and arts. What you have prepared for that?

['Abd-Rabbuh] There is a very large program. However, as I have said, on the 28th of this month, we will hold an expanded meeting for the Palestinian intellectuals in Gaza. A week after this meeting, we will hold a meeting for the intellectuals in the West Bank which might be concluded by a unified conference. What is important is that we want to define the urgent plan which is required on the cultural level in order to reinforce the cultural situation in our country and to guarantee the participation of the largest possible number of intellectuals in this process.

[Correspondent] The controller in the studio is signaling me that time is over. Brother Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, minister of culture, information, and arts, we are pleased to have interviewed you. We hope that we will have other meetings with you in the future. Thank you.

['Abd-Rabbuh] I am here with the brother workers at the Palestinian radio and television. I am one of them. The Palestinian radio and television will rise up just as Palestine has risen in all fields by the arms of its sons. We will build our radio, news media, and cultural institutions gradually until the Palestinian people restore their position, until the Palestinian culture, which is part of our Arab culture, restores its past effective role, and until the Palestinian people establish their independent state, God willing, the state of Palestine from Rafah to Janin, with Jerusalem in its heart.

[Correspondent] Thank you minister of culture, information, and arts.

Post-Withdrawal Prospects for Islamic Parties

NC2007083294 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 15 July 94 p 5

[Report by Muhammad Jamal 'Arafah]

[Text] Following the signing of the Oslo and the Gaza-Jericho agreements, the leaders of the Palestinian Islamic movements—Hamas and the Islamic Jihad—hinted at the possibility of a change in tactics, method of operations, and military focus following the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Gaza and Jericho.

One of the most remarkable changes was the pledge to stop the killing of Palestinians accused of collaborating with the Zionists and to leave their fate up to the Palestinian police. There was also talk that the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) might form a political party to contest any legislative election in the occupied land.

As Islamists and other opponents of the peace agreement ponder new ways of doing things, the need to follow peaceful means to confront the new Palestinian authority looms large in their thinking. Their main concern is to foil the Zionist dream of a Palestinian civil war.

Some proponents and opponents of the peace agreement have already taken steps to form political parties, anticipating the legislative election slated for mid-October. Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh of the pro-'Arafat wing of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine has formed the Fida' [sacrifice] Party. Muhammad Jihad and 'Abbas Zaki, Fatah officials who oppose the peace agreement, intend to form their own party.

What everyone is waiting for is Hamas and the Jihad movements to announce their parties. They represent a credible force of opposition to 'Arafat's self-rule government in Gaza and Jericho.

Fathi al-Shiqaqi, secretary general of the Islamic Jihad Movement, has hinted that a political branch of the movement might be formed to perform the social and political tasks necessary under the changed situation.

Some Hamas officials say a Hamas party is a possibility but add that such a party will not replace the Hamas movement. Armed struggle against the occupation authority everywhere will continue, they vow.

But it seems that any plans Hamas and Jihad may entertain to form a political party are still tentative. Hints made so far of such a move seem calculated to test the reaction of the Palestinian authority.

The political forces loyal to Fatah and the PLO have launched a massive popular campaign dedicated to urgent social projects. Some Palestinians have offered an explanation for this hectic activity. Hamas is in control of most social, educational, and economic activity in Gaza and other Palestinian towns. This causes concern among the Palestinian leadership, which had to move fast, particularly with Hamas poised to form a political party. The battle for the hearts and minds of the Palestinian masses is on.

Contrary to popular belief, the Israelis, as Shim'on Peres once noted, welcome the possibility of Hamas forming its own political party. They hope this would be the beginning of the end for the resistance. The PLO is in

two minds on that subject. More to the point, the Hamas leaders are still split. Some support such a move, others oppose it.

Those who support the establishment of a party see it as a vehicle to confront the self-rule authority and a means of engaging in public life without running into official constraints. Opponents believe the step would be an anticlimax, if not the end, for a movement with six years of struggle behind it. They suspect—as the British paper THE INDEPENDENT noted—that Yasir 'Arafat will opt for a form of artificial democracy (Tunisian or Algerian style). In that scenario the parties will have no power and their role will be minimal once the self-rule process takes root and the days of armed struggle are over.

More to the point, as the opponents say, most Hamas leaders are either in prison or unknown, as they work, particularly in the military wing, underground. The formation of a Hamas party may create unwanted publicity. The party's formation will also require the release of Hamas leaders. This is not an easy task, as the Zionist occupation authorities refuse to free imprisoned Hamas members and leaders unless they sign documents renouncing violence and pledging support to the peace process with Israel.

The latest official Israeli position was stated by Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin. He said that no Hamas member, including Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, will be released before signing this pledge, effectively recognizing the Gaza-Jericho Agreement and consenting to work within its framework.

It is known that 2,000 to 3,000 Hamas members are still in Israeli prisons because they refuse to sign such pledges. The Zionists are constantly calling on the PLO to take stiff measures against Hamas and other Palestinian groups opposed to the settlement with Israel.

Palestinian police are said to be trying to clamp down on Hamas activities in mosques, leading to an exchange of accusations between the two sides.

Mansur al-Shawwa, a leading Gaza figure, notes fears that the 'Arafat self-rule government may pick a fight with the Islamists to divert attention from the deteriorating conditions in Gaza and Jericho, which PLO officials admit will last years. Donor countries have helped to finance the Palestinian police force but have failed to follow through with other promised forms of assistance.

It is not clear how long Hamas will keep toying with the idea of forming a political party. There are signs that despite the opposition within its ranks, Hamas is edging closer to establishing a party. A clearer picture is likely to emerge once the election system is drawn up and the Palestinian authority's attitude to opposition is tested.

Algeria

Security Forces: 9 'Terrorists' Killed Since 14 Jul

LD1907194794 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 19 Jul 94

[Text] A statement by the security services released today said that the security forces eliminated nine terrorists between Thursday [14 July] and Monday in Blida, Tlemcen, and Belkhadem in the capital province. In addition, an unspecified quantity of arms and ammunition were recovered.

Gen. Abderrahim: No Secret Talks Between FIS, Army

MM1807154794 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 18 Jul 94 p 4

[Unattributed report: "Algerian Security Sources Expect Violent Actions To Be Escalated"]

[Excerpt] Algiers, AL-HAYAH—Algerian security sources expect a violent escalation in the armed groups' military operations before the negotiations which are likely to begin between them and the authorities next fall.

Some reports say that "secret negotiations" have been held between the disbanded Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] and the Army, pointing out that these negotiations have reached an impasse. THE WASHINGTON TIMES said a few days ago that the "secret negotiations" were led by retired General Kamal Abderrahim, and that during these negotiations it was proposed that the FIS participate in government, but the negotiations produced no results.

But, in a telephone statement to AL-HAYAH, Gen. Abderrahim denied these reports completely. He said: "The people circulating these false reports want to give U.S. and Western public opinion the impression that the regime in Algeria wants a dialogue but the FIS does not. Maybe their second aim is to instigate armed extremists to assassinate me." [passage omitted]

FIS Urges Foreign Companies Not To Trade With Regime

MM1507103094 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 15 Jul 94 p 4

[Unattributed report: "Salvation Front Urges Foreign Companies To Avoid Trade Dealings With Algerian Regime"]

[Text] London, AL-HAYAH—The Islamic Salvation Front parliamentary mission abroad issued a statement yesterday, condemning "the attacks on all those who are not directly participating or directing the security operations carried out by the authorities, be they civilian or military Algerians, or foreigners."

The statement said that "the Front's parliamentary mission urges all foreign companies to avoid trade dealings with the putschists outside humanitarian questions. When the situation stabilizes and security has been established, the future Islamic state in Algeria assures all that it will deal with all its economic partners."

Zeroual Receives Libyan Envoy, Expresses Solidarity

LD1907122694 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1130 GMT 19 Jul 94

[Text] Algerian President Liamine Zeroual reiterated Algeria's solidarity with and support for the Great Jamahiriyah in confronting the unjust measures imposed by Western countries through the so-called Security Council. During his meeting with the brother secretary of the people's committee for justice and public security in Algeria today, the Algerian president affirmed the need to seek a just settlement for the crisis between the Great Jamahiriyah and the Western countries.

During the meeting, President Zeroual expressed satisfaction over the positive results achieved by the executive joint Libyan-Algerian committee in its eighth session held recently in the Great Jamahiriyah, and he stressed the need to develop and bolster cooperation relations between the Great Jamahiriyah and Algeria in various fields.

Egypt

Yemeni Envoy Denies Differences Delayed Visit

NC1907155394 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 19 Jul 94

[Text] Ambassador Ahmad Nu'man [name as heard], Yemen's permanent delegate to the Arab League, has said that Yemeni Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim Basindwah's scheduled visit to Cairo today was postponed because instructions were issued to all ministers in Yemen to implement the Yemeni Presidential Council's resolutions on handling the war consequences so that the country can be reorganized from within. He denied that there were any Egyptian-Yemeni differences behind the visit's postponement.

Commenting after meeting with Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid today, he said the league secretary general handed him a message for the Yemeni health minister containing the Arab ministers' agreement to send medical equipment to Yemen.

Musa on Conditions for Lifting Sanctions Against Iraq

AU1907182194 Bratislava NARODNA OBRODA in Slovak 16 Jul 94 p 7

[Text] During Thursday's [14 July] visit to Bratislava by an Egyptian delegation headed by President Mubarak, a

NARODNA OBRODA reporter asked Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa a question concerning the stance of this key Arab country toward the possible lifting of the sanctions against Iraq. The head of the Egyptian diplomatic corps gave the following answer:

Logic compels us to think along the lines that everything must come to an end. Even the sanctions against Iraq cannot last forever. However, a certain framework and a certain sequence have to be created before they can be lifted. The first and most important step in this direction must be Iraq's recognition of Kuwait as an independent, sovereign state. That is, Baghdad must retract its previous claims that Kuwait is its 19th province. The second important condition is then adhering to all the resolutions adopted by the UN Security Council. Egypt would welcome it if Iraq were to recognize Kuwait sooner rather than later and also if the sanctions were lifted sooner rather than later. In this connection, however, it is necessary to emphasize certain things: First, Iraq's territorial integrity should be respected and not placed in doubt, and, second, Egypt supports all measures that will help to alleviate the suffering of the Iraqi people.

Musa Discusses Iran, Sudan, Terrorism With Preachers

NC1907211094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1930 GMT 19 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 19 Jul (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has affirmed that the foreign hands that used to back Egyptian terrorists have suffered a resounding defeat and have backed down from their former untenable attitudes that only aimed to terrorize peaceful citizens and distort the way Islam is viewed.

Musa made these remarks during his meeting with the prayer leaders and preachers attending the First General Congress of Egyptian Mosque Imams in Cairo this evening.

Musa pointed out that Egypt is targeted by some who wish to destabilize it because of its international influence, particularly in the regional, African, and Islamic spheres.

Musa told the imams and preachers that an Egyptian-Iranian dialogue or a dialogue between Iran and the Gulf countries would be beneficial to the Arab and Islamic nations. He said an old friendship and mutual interests bind Iran to Egypt and the rest of the Arab world and explained that the current dispute with Iran is not the rule but the exception. He said the type of the relationship with Iran precludes a permanent estrangement.

Musa said he hopes that there will be a further improvement of ties with Iran, pointing out that this will take some time until normal, sound relations can be restored.

He denounced the Sudanese regime's hostile acts against Egypt and said they contradict the Islamic values that the Sudanese regime claims to espouse.

Musa pointed out that Egypt has not adopted any position that can possibly harm Sudan or its people.

'Amr Musa asserted that one cannot say that a comprehensive peace has been established until the Jerusalem issue is tackled, noting that a favorable development in this connection has been Israel's announcement that it is willing to negotiate over Jerusalem.

He added that Israel realizes that the Jerusalem issue must have a decisive solution and declared that such a solution is not impossible.

Musa said Egypt opposes any proposals to partition Iraq, declaring: We support Iraq's unity and believe the humanitarian aspect of the Iraqi people's case must be taken into account.

He declared that it is time for Iraq to recognize Kuwait's sovereignty so that the way will be open to lift the embargo on Iraq.

Musa noted that Egypt is making intensive efforts to lift the economic embargo on Libya and to find a just solution to the Libyan- Western crisis.

Speaking about the recent Yemeni crisis, Musa said Egypt did its utmost to prevent the outbreak of war between north and south Yemen and sought to stop the fighting immediately after it broke out and to resolve all problems through a peaceful dialogue.

He affirmed that Egypt spared no effort to provide all means of political and legal support for the Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina and that it severed all forms of cooperation with the Serbs and refused to recognize them as a substitute for Yugoslavia.

Musa voiced Egypt's refusal of all forms of internal conflicts and fighting between the sons of the same nation in Afghanistan and Somalia. He also emphasized that Egypt, through its al-Azhar, is eager to provide all forms of support for Islamic minorities, to educate the sons of the Islamic world in al-Azhar University and institutions, and to send ulema and preachers there to work in Islamic propagation.

Al-Alfi Says Terrorist Organizations Penetrated

NC2007052794 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 19 Jul 94

[Excerpts] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak attended graduation day ceremonies at the Police Academy's indoor hall this evening. [passage omitted]

Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi delivered a speech asserting that the security forces have the upper hand over those who are tempted to undermine the homeland and terrorize peaceful citizens. He said this security effort has been carried out according to plan and that the noble motive behind it was sincerity and loyalty to this homeland and the desire to secure a better life for future

generations. He said the current security effort represents the great hope of totally exterminating the terrorist disease and creating an appropriate climate for economic prosperity.

He pointed out that the country's economic progress had provoked the forces of evil and people with grudges to plan and finance operations designed to undermine the Egyptian people's security and halt their economic progress.

Al-Alfi pointed out that these hateful people's scheme was given media attention by some institutions and organizations opposed to this nation's prosperity and progress. They conducted a misleading propaganda campaign to stop tourism and investments in Egypt, which the political leadership and the state's departments had succeeded in attracting to reduce unemployment.

The interior minister referred to the support lent to the security forces by the country's leader and executive departments to confront this challenge. He explained that this was accomplished by a strong and effective security effort that made rapid, successful, and effective strikes against terrorism and its supporters. He said this endeavor is now bearing fruit.

Hasan al-Alfi added that the terrorist forces at home have been penetrated and that the security forces are constantly present among the members of these sinister organizations. He said that there have also been successful penetrations of the terrorists abroad. [passage omitted]

Christopher Tour Said To Raise Hopes for Peace

NC2007073894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0605 GMT 20 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 20 Jul (MENA)—AL-JUMHURIYAH has said that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher has started his tour of the Middle East with statements that raise hopes and encourage optimism regarding a comprehensive peace on every front. The paper said that the hopes for peace are greater than any fears, because peace provides the atmosphere for the stability and security that are necessary for the region's people to make economic progress.

The newspaper noted in its comment today that Christopher has come to the Middle East with an agenda laden with extensive meetings and negotiations in Damascus, Amman, Tel Aviv, and Gaza and that he has affirmed that the Arab-Israeli conflict is about to end.

The newspaper expressed its belief that these words, which bring tidings of hope, open the door to fruitful negotiations yielding good results, particularly on the Syrian-Israeli track. Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa described this track as important and decisive.

AL-JUMHURIYAH stressed the importance of a Syrian-Israeli peace, since it is a vital and important part of the peace cycle, which must be finalized so that a comprehensive peace might be established on every front. It noted that the expected Husayn-Rabin summit in Washington is considered an important step for finalizing this cycle.

Concluding its comment, the newspaper affirmed the importance of convincing the parties in the Middle East of the significance of peace. Peace provides a strong incentive for boosting the course of constructive negotiations, especially as there still is a need to exert other massive efforts to strengthen Palestinian autonomy and prepare for the next stage of Palestinian-Israeli negotiations.

Israeli Behavior During Christopher Visit Criticized

NC2007071494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0607 GMT 20 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 20 Jul (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR says that Israel has received U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher at the beginning of his current Middle East tour to promote peace with a big reception in which scores of Palestinian citizens were massacred and over 100 injured.

The newspaper adds in today's commentary that this reception reveals the bloody nature of the Jewish state's leaders, which they have not been able to change. Such behavior is not strange for a government that treats Palestinian lives lightly, even after it accepting their right to rule parts of their occupied homeland.

The newspaper notes the Israeli Government's defiant and outrageous behavior when it asked the Palestinians who lost cherished family members and martyrs during the recent aggression to pay compensation to Israel for the material damage that occurred during the massacre. The lives of the Palestinian youths who died during the incident are of absolutely no importance in the Israeli formula.

The newspaper says that Rabin has presented his ally, the United States, with a clear piece of evidence that the peace agreements with the Palestinians providing for autonomy in a part of their occupied land do not guarantee them their rightful security. In addition, Rabin has proven that Israel preserves its right to return at any time to kill and injure whomever it pleases.

AL-AKHBAR ends its commentary by asking: Has the world seen, or will it ever again see, such arrogance and perverse logic as Israel still clings to? Does Rabin really believe that his policy could encourage the other Arab parties with whom he is still negotiating to agree to peace on his terms?

Libya

Korean Construction Minister Meets With Officials

Holds Talks With Health Secretary

LD1807085994 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0722 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Text] Surt, 18 Jul (JANA)—The brother secretary of the General People's Committee of Health and Social Security

last night met with U-sok Kim, construction minister in the Republic of Korea, and the delegation accompanying him, who are currently visiting the Great Jamahiriyah. Cooperation relations and the means to develop and consolidate them in the spheres of health and social security between the Great Jamahiriyah and the Republic of Korea were discussed during this meeting.

Condemns UN Sanctions

LD1807103794 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0725 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Text] Surt, 18 Jul (JANA)—[South] Korean Construction Minister U-sok Kim condemned the unjust measures imposed by the Western countries on the Jamahiriyah through the so-called Security Council. In a statement to a JANA correspondent after his meeting yesterday with the brother secretary of the General People's Committee of Health and Social Security, the construction minister confirmed the standing and solidarity of the Korean people with the Great Jamahiriyah in confronting these unjust measures.

Meets With Housing Secretary

LD1907124294 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1052 GMT 19 Jul 94

[Excerpt] Benghazi, 19 Jul—The brother secretary of the General People's Committee of Housing and Utilities today met the Korean housing and construction minister who is currently visiting the Great Jamahiriyah.

The meeting dealt with [passage indistinct] bilateral cooperation between the Great Jamahiriyah and Korea and following up on the important projects which the Korean companies are carrying out in the Great Jamahiriyah. [passage omitted]

U.S. Official's Statement on Algeria Denounced

LD1607130994 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 16 Jul 94

[Text] A high-ranking U.S. official made a press statement in Paris yesterday in which he said that the Algerian Government had to start serious talks with the FIS [Islamic Salvation Front] otherwise it would face the possibility of losing its control over parts of the country.

Thus, the American Government escalates its attempts to dictate specific policies to this fraternal Arab country and to issue orders to it, within the framework of the policy of hegemony on peoples adopted by the American Government.

'Flagrant Interference' by West Condemned

LD1907130894 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1128 GMT 19 Jul 94

[Text] Algiers, 19 Jul (JANA)— The ruling Western circles are continuing their flagrant interference in the internal affairs of sisterly Algeria and attempting to dictate specific policies on that country, proceeding from the old colonialist mentality that still controls those circles.

Radio Mediterrance Internationale said that the director of African affairs at the French Foreign Affairs Ministry yesterday met the U.S. assistant secretary of state and discussed the situation in Algeria.

Morocco

King Hassan Receives Human Rights Delegation

LD1907192694 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 19 Jul 94

[Excerpts] His Majesty King Hassan II, accompanied by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Prince Sidi Mohamed and His Royal Highness Prince Moulay Rachid, this afternoon received in the royal palace in Skhirat members of the Consultative Council for Human Rights [CCDH]. [passage omitted]

The members of the Council drew attention to the fact that they have studied the lists in consideration of the 1992 Constitution, stipulating that the Kingdom of Morocco stresses its adherence to human rights, as defined internationally and within the concept of political prisoners, defined by the international community and by the UN Committee for Human Rights in its 1988 session as being a person who peacefully seeks to practice or develop his rights in freedom of thought, opinion, and expression, and in setting up associations and groupings, and the right to participate in public issues. It was thus confirmed to the members of the Council that there are 11 prisoners to whom this definition applies.

The members of the Council stress, after taking cognizance of the concept and meaning of the royal speech, and its political and civilizational dimensions, aimed at creating an atmosphere of harmony, that they have studied the lists of those sentenced following painful incidents and are guided by the instructions you the King have given and the path you have defined.

The members also studied the issue of those in exile, and, as it transpired, there are two groups: a group that chose exile and were not sentenced or wanted by the courts for prosecution, and the inevitable outcome is that the right of these to return is guaranteed. The second group consists of those who fled justice after being sentenced or are subject to a legal action.

The members of the Council praised the decision of the government, stipulating the solution of those who went missing, and whose number is small and goes back far in the past. They expressed their wish to close this dossier as soon as possible within the principles of human rights.

The members requested the issuance of a pardon for those 11 whose names are on the first list concerning political prisoners and the persons whose names are included in the second list of persons other than political

prisoners, the number of which is 413, and those in exile, whether sentenced or wanted by the law, within the same criteria. [passage omitted]

Afterward, King Hassan II made the following speech:

[Begin Hassan recording] Thanks be to God, prayers and peace on our master the Prophet and his messengers. Gentlemen, undoubtedly the meeting you have held recently, once instructed to study this dossier, will have a historic aspect with regard to the proceedings of the Consultative Council for Human Rights.

These meetings will have a historic significance for a number of reasons, the most important of which is that Morocco, which has for centuries been defending justice, fairness, and human rights, will now be able, after having put its house in order and solved its problems, to resume its role to defend human rights in the world and wherever these rights are abused, or whenever it is consulted by those in charge in this regard, as used to be the case for centuries. Morocco will play its role without interfering in the internal affairs of other states. However, it will perform this role with chivalry which stems not only from the contemporary international law, but because it has initiated and formulated it; it derived it from its ancient historic and original march.

We believe that what you have done today by submitting this list represents for me personally, once I have put my royal seal on the list, a period in time in which I will feel not only happiness but also pride, first, because of the work that we have carried out together, and second because of the small number of those who have been defined as political prisoners.

If we had believed the lists that continue to refer and target Morocco for years—and, in this, case Morocco was and is still being targeted by schemes that only God knows their consequences or implicit and explicit motives, because those lists used to refer to hundreds of political prisoners. We are proud that this list does not exceed 11 persons.

Mr. Mikou, secretary general of this respected council, mentioned the abrogation of the 1935 Decree. For me personally, I was the keenest and most enthusiastic person for the abrogation of this decree, because in 1954 I was condemned to death in absentia while I was in Madagascar because of the provisions of the 1935 decree.

Second, from working practice, I believe that for both the legal system and lawyers, this decision will open up a new door for working practices between judges, lawyers, and state prosecutors. This is because in the future, and whenever it is a question of a crime or offense, a judge will be obliged to define the crime or offense meticulously. Then, the prosecutor general will have to demand the punishment that fits the offense committed by the offender. Lastly, we will close the door in the face of the trivialities of some professional politicians, with all my respect to the law profession, as I always say that had I not been king I would have chosen to be a lawyer.

Therefore, in the future, things will be clear. Everyone will be aware of the punishment which he will demand. Everyone will understand what he is defending, and everyone will be aware of the charges brought against him.

Hence, I can see only goodness and interest regarding the abrogation of the 1935 decree. Goodness from the angle of philosophy, history, practice, and implementation, because in the future the crimes and offenses will be clearly defined. This will facilitate the operation of the legal system and provide a good working practice between the judges and lawyers, because they all follow the same path, they all want to put an end to injustice, and they all believe that a person is innocent until proven guilty through evidence that is acceptable to the law and the mind.

So, we should say, with all modesty and thanks to God, that today is a happy day, and from the viewpoint of practice we have turned a new page. We swear to God that we will never reopen the previous page, not today or tomorrow, or at any day or any century. [passage omitted]

We have nothing to gain from suspicions because they do not fit or correspond to the history of Morocco, because Morocco has never been ashamed of its work. [passage omitted]

I wish you more progress, and I thank you for the manner with which you conduct your work. Everyday we have been following your work and debates, the common aspect that is noted is the good working practice and respect among all members of the council. Second, we note the fair and frank way used to express your opinion and view, which I asked you to do on 8 July. Thank you for the style and content of your work. May we have more people like you; may God help you and put you at the level of our trust, and the trust of our citizens. God's peace and prayers be upon you. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Two New Ministers Appointed in Minor Reshuffle

LD1907172894 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 19 Jul 94

[Text] The Information Ministry has issued the following statement: King Hassan II, may God make him victorious, today has appointed Mr. Driss Jettou as minister of trade, industry, handicraft, and external trade, and Mr. Mourad Cherif as minister for finance and investments.

Sudan

IGADD-Sponsored Peace Talks Begin in Nairobi

Government Team Arrives

EA1807213394 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Text] The government delegation to the peace talks, led by Transitional National Assembly Chairman Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, arrived in the Kenyan

capital, Nairobi, at 1700 today. The delegation was met by senior Kenyan Foreign Ministry officials, the Sudanese ambassador in Nairobi, and members of the Sudanese community there.

The first session of negotiations will open tomorrow at 1500 at the presidential palace in Nairobi, where the participants will be addressed by Kenyan President Daniel arap Moi in the presence of their excellencies the foreign ministers of the Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development states under whose auspices the negotiations are being held, as well as that of U.S. Ambassador in Khartoum Donald Petterson who will be supervising the negotiations in place of Ambassador Melissa Wells, the envoy of U.S. President Bill Clinton. Garang's delegation will be led by Silva Kiir. The delegation of the unified faction will be led by Richard Moro.

[Paris AFP in English at 2035 GMT on 18 July, in a Nairobi-datelined item, adds: "A third round of peace talks between Sudan's Islamic military government and southern, mainly Christian rebels started here Monday with all parties to the conflict holding informal consultations, Kenyan officials said. All the delegations have arrived in the Kenyan capital, a spokesman for the Kenyan Foreign Ministry said."]

SPLM Cites Conditions for Agreement

NC2007074294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2045 GMT 19 Jul 94

[Text] Nairobi, 19 Jul (MENA)—An official source in the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement [SPLM] has said that the movement will make an announcement tomorrow, Wednesday [20 July], during the ongoing peace negotiations in Nairobi that it is willing to respect Sudan's unity and abandon its demand for separation and for an independent state in the south.

The official, who is participating in the Nairobi negotiations, told MENA this evening that the SPLM is willing to sign the declaration of principles proposed by IGADD [Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development] if the Sudanese Government agrees not to enforce Islamic shari'ah in south Sudan and draws up a new secular constitution for a united Sudan.

The source warned that if the Sudanese Government turns down this request, the southerners will be forced to declare the south's independence and separation. But if it accepts the request, the negotiations can move on to the second item on the agenda, involving agreement on interim political and administrative arrangements in the south. These arrangements would remain in force until the results of the negotiations are submitted to the citizens of south Sudan in a public referendum.

The southern source said the SPLM is willing to observe an immediate cease-fire in response to an appeal by Kenyan President Daniel arap Moi at the opening session of the peace negotiations in Nairobi today.

The SPLM official declared that if President Moi's call for a cease-fire is accepted by all the concerned parties, this will demonstrate to the world in general and to the Sudanese people in particular that these parties are serious about achieving peace and settling the issue of south Sudan without further fighting.

Ummah Postpones Signing Agreement With SPLM

MM1807102194 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 15 Jul 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by Nizar Daw-al-Na'im]

[Excerpts] London—The Sudanese opposition Ummah Party yesterday postponed indefinitely the signing of an agreement with the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement [SPLM] led by Colonel John Garang, which was scheduled to be signed yesterday. The reason is the latter's signing of an agreement with the opposition Democratic Unionist Party [DUP] the day before yesterday.

The party pointed out that it was waiting for clarifications from the SPLM about the agreement with Unionist leader Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani. And that it did not want to sign the new agreement "to avoid causing any split on the political scene that harms the people's cause."

A brief press statement issued by the committee organizing the signing ceremony, which was scheduled to be held in London yesterday, pointed out that "as a result of political developments on the Sudanese political scene, the Ummah Party and the SPLM apologize for their postponement of the signing of the agreement and the press conference expected to follow it."

Mubarak al-Fadil al-Mahdi, official in charge of external action in the Ummah Party, issued a press statement outlining circumstances of the issue and stressing "the Ummah Party's fixed position supportive of Sudan's unity." [passage omitted]

Al-Mahdi said: "Since the self-determination question began to surface, the Ummah Party has engaged in friendly and constructive consultations with the movement with a view to reaching an agreement to settle this sensitive question. And talks have been held with the movement in the framework of the party's principled position that Sudan's unity is a principal aim the party is seeking to achieve with the recognition of the South's right to self-determination."

He added: "Our aim has always been, and still is, to reach a clear agreement with the movement—an agreement that outlines the features of the transitional phase in which trust would be built among the Sudanese, and the southerners would exercise their right to run their areas if we really reach an agreement with the movement's delegation which is in London at present, which was scheduled to be signed Thursday (yesterday). But as a result of the agreement signed on Wednesday (in Cairo)

by Commander Yusuf Kuwwah for the SPLM and Dr. Ahmad al-Sayyid Hamad for the DUP, and because we are waiting for further information and clarifications about this agreement, the Ummah Party has decided to postpone the signing of its agreement with the movement to avoid causing confusion or a split on the Sudanese political scene that harms the Sudanese people's cause. In view of these developments, the Ummah Party asked the movement's delegation to postpone the signing until further notice."

Concluding, al-Mahdi said: "The Ummah Party would like to stress its fixed position that it will always support Sudan's unity. On that basis, the party supports the Cairo agreement between the DUP and the movement or any agreement aimed at consolidating the foundations of unity, peace, democracy, and stability in Sudan." [passage omitted]

Church Official Claims 1,000 Killed in Fighting

AB1907213394 Paris AFP in English 1923 GMT 19 Jul 94

[Text] Nairobi, July 19 (AFP)—At least 1,000 people have died and thousands have fled in a new round of fighting between rival factions of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) in the Bar-el-Ghazal region of southern Sudan, a senior Sudanese churchman announced here on Tuesday [19 July].

The apostolic administrator of Rumbek Diocese of southern Sudan, Bishop Caesar Mazzolari, said heavy fighting has been going on in Bar-el-Ghazal, a new front in the war, between SPLA leader John Garang's forces and rival Riak Mashar's SPLA-United fighters since the end of June.

The statement said there had been an orgy of looting in the region by both forces, started in Wunrock County.

First it was Garang's mainstream SPLA which attacked the county and its surrounding villages on July 3, looting household goods, livestock and anything that could be carried away, as well as abducting several children and women, Mazzolari said.

On July 5, SPLA-United's deputy leader Kerubino Kwanyin Bol, assisted by his faction's other commanders and 2,000 soldiers, attacked the county's villages again, taking over Mayen Abun and holding it until July 14.

Before moving out with a redoubled force of nearly 5,000 fighting men, they too looted whatever remained from the earlier looting, the Roman Catholic cleric said.

The long conflict culminated in fierce battles on July 13 at the villages of Turalei, Maper, Aweng, Majok, Pennyok and Mayen Abun in which over 1,000 people died, the majority of whom were civilians, the bishop said.

Many other people fleeing, both soldiers and civilians, drowned when they tried to cross the Lol River, currently swollen due to long rains.

"The tragedy is far from over. The fighting will continue over the possession of these villages, as both sides wait for reinforcements," the bishop warned, adding: "The area is now plagued by the most atrocious conditions of hunger after people lost everything and have nowhere to go but the bush at the peak of the rainy season."

But fighting has apparently died down around the northern Upper Nile town of Nasir, where another SPLA-United faction led by its sacked foreign affairs secretary Lam Akol has recently been reported to be making significant gains against faction leader Riak Mashar.

The fighting comes as the third round of peace talks got underway between Sudanese warring forces, at which Kenyan President Daniel arap Moi made a passionate appeal for an end to the bloody civil war in the southern Sudan that has left hundreds of thousands dead and millions displaced or in exile.

The SPLA took up arms against Khartoum in 1983 in an effort to end domination of the mainly Christian and animist south by the Arabised Moslem north.

But internal splits have since weakened the movement allowing the government to recapture a string of garrison towns it had lost to the SPLA in the last 11 years, including Garang's headquarters of Kajo Kaji near the Sudan-Uganda border, which fell to the government on June 11.

Ethiopian Refugees Flee Drought, Tribal Conflicts

EA1907101094 Nairobi KNA in English 0830 GMT 19 Jul 94

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 18 Jul (KNA/PANA)—Drought and tribal conflicts in neighbouring Ethiopia have forced another wave of refugees into Sudan, according to the Sudanese minister of state for refugees affairs, Ihsan al-Ghabshawi.

Ghabshawi was quoted by the government-owned English language daily NEW HORIZON Monday [18 July] as saying that nearly 1,500 refugees had recently crossed into eastern Sudan and needed immediate attention. The minister appealed to the local population not to worry about the new influx of the refugees as the refugees commission will look after them. She said she would request the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to transport the refugees to the refugee camps in the area.

Not less than 300,000 Ethiopian refugees are already in Sudan awaiting repatriation. The majority live in the refugee camps in eastern and central Sudan. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Information Minister Comments on Saddam Speech

LD1907215994 Kuwait KSC Television in Arabic 1830 GMT 19 Jul 94

["Text" of statement by Information Minister Sa'ud Nasir Sa'ud al-Sabah on 19 July; place not given—read by announcer]

[Text] The information minister, Shaykh Sa'ud Nasir al-Sabah, stressed that the Security Council's resolution stipulating the renewal of the sanctions against the Iraqi regime is the strongest proof of the international community's firmness and cohesion in the face of the procrastination and cunning of this regime.

He further said that the attempts by the Baghdad regime to twist the UN resolutions have failed miserably, just like the previous ones. The information minister stressed in reply to the deceptions of the president of the Iraqi regime that the unjust Iraqi aggression on Kuwait had led to the international presence in the region, when the Iraqi regime had rejected all attempts to reach an Arab solution. Foremost among these was the emergency Arab summit meeting which was held in Cairo on 10 August 1990, a matter which had led to the strong intervention of the international community to reestablish justice.

The information minister said that the international coalition forces came after the Security Council had stressed the possibility of resorting to the use of all means to put an end to the aggression and recover legitimacy.

Shaykh Sa'ud Nasir al-Sabah further said that after the international coalition forces had carried out their task, they left the region once the Iraqi regime announced its total submission. However, it later continued its procrastination and refusal to implement fully the resolutions of the Security Council, particularly matters related to the official demarcation of the international borders between Kuwait and Iraq and the release of the Kuwaiti POWs and detainees in the Iraqi prisons and camps, while continuing to make allegations, calumnies, and threats—and by doing so continually stressing that it is the main reason for the lack of stability and security in the region.

The information minister stressed that the head of the Iraqi regime has forgotten his deception of a number of Arab leaders who tried to sway him from his temptation and aggression and went ahead in his sinful aggression without any restraint of either ethics or conscience. All of this confirms that we cannot trust this trickster who is accustomed to this method which contravenes all values and norms.

His attempt to spread confidence and delude the world that he has given up his lies cannot deceive anyone. The faithful would not be stung twice from the same hole. [Islamic proverb] That regime was and still is the source of instability and lack of security in this region.

Information Minister Shaykh Sa'ud Nasir al-Sabah went on to refute the head of the Iraqi regime's attempts to claim the adherence to religion and dressing in the cloak of Islam and wondered: Is it Islamic to commit the heinous crimes that were committed by the Baghdad regime against the Kuwaiti citizens? They were crimes which brought shame to the whole of humanity. Or is it Islamic to kill innocent women and children who have committed no offense? Or is it Islamic to violate other people's honor and sanctities? Or to commit aggression against a neighboring Muslim state which had offered Iraq assistance and help for scores of years? Or is it Islam, which the head of the Iraqi regime claims to adhere to, which calls for the usurpation of others' rights for mere satisfaction of sinful whims and desires?

The information minister stated that Islam is innocent of such practices and that the true Islam glorifies the values of brotherhood and loyalty, recognizes good turns, and shuns aggression. It seeks justice and truth, and exalts all noble values—values that the head of the Iraqi regime blasted out of their roots—an act which greatly harmed Islam and Muslims.

The information minister pointed to an attempt by the leader of that regime—who remains in power in Baghdad—to proclaim his adherence to Islam which illustrates his terrible exploitation of that religion and confirms the huge damage that has been incurred against Islam and Muslims—that pure religion has not deterred him from adhering to the teachings of Islam.

The information minister added that the president of the Iraqi regime, who strongly rejected any Arab solutions, spoke again about the Arab nation, forgetting what he had done to that nation and that his unjust aggression had caused a deep crack within it and a deep wound which is still bleeding. He attacked his neighbor and dispersed the capabilities of the Arab nation and thus weakened its position in many issues.

The information minister stressed that Arab solidarity was at its best on the eve of the Iraqi invasion; then the treacherous invasion came to destroy all that, and confirm that the ruler of Baghdad did not care about Arab solidarity as much as he cared for his own interest.

Answering a question on the lies of the president of the Iraqi regime, the information minister underlined that the damage caused by the atrocious Iraqi invasion was estimated at 800 billion dollars, which if invested wisely, it could have changed the face of the Arab nation, and have redefined the future of this Arab region. However, due to the stupidity of the Iraqi regime, it insisted on squandering and wasting the Arab wealth and deprive the Arab nation of a historic opportunity—a matter that makes him one of the enemies of the nation, and even of the whole mankind.

In a response to the fallacies of the head of the Iraqi regime, the information minister said that the G-7 Naples summit communique was good enough to refute the fabrications of the head of that regime. This summit, which included Russian President Boris Yeltsin, stressed in its political statement that there was no reason why these states should change their stances towards the Baghdad regime. That statement was a powerful slap in the face of that regime; and a real indication of the cohesion of the international front to confront the lies of the ruler of Baghdad, days before the UN Security Council began its session on reviewing the sanctions.

Shaykh Sa'ud Nasir al-Sabah said that the Iraqi regime's methods of deception are not confined to the Arab nation and the international community. It practices these methods in their ugliest form on the Iraqi people when it deludes them through its biased information that the international sanctions were about to be lifted, in a cheap attempt to absorb the dissatisfaction and anger prevailing among the ranks of that people. The regime, however, is fully aware that it has killed and assassinated from the ranks of the children of the Iraqi people more than were killed in the regime's military adventures.

The information minister also said it is better for the head of the Iraqi regime to announce his submission to the Security Council resolutions and hasten to implement them if he is genuinely interested in the interests of the Iraqi people. He should understand the clear message implied in the Security Council's decision to maintain the international sanctions against him. It stresses that there will be no lifting of the sanctions before he recognizes the sovereignty of the state of Kuwait, its international borders according to the Security Council Resolution 833, and releases all Kuwaiti and other POWs and hostages.

The information minister stressed that the ruler in Baghdad is still living in a state of delusion. This regime is still talking about what it calls the Mother of Battles while fully aware that it sustained a bitter defeat, because it was a war between right and falsehood, and victory is always the ally of right.

The information minister added that the Baghdad ruler is the last to speak about the Arab nation and its interests, stressing that recent and contemporary history provides ample evidence that this ruler, with his sinful crime against the state of Kuwait, was the cause of the disintegration of the Arab nation and the dismemberment of its limbs. The traces of this disintegration are still visible on the Arab arena and these traces will remain for many years to come.

Regional and international circumstances were available for the Arab nation to get up and occupy its place within the new emerging international order. Then came Iraq's sinful invasion of the state of Kuwait which undermined all the Arab achievements and pushed the Arab nation backwards.

Information Minister Shaykh Sa'ud Nasir al-Sabah said, in response to the fallacies of the head of the Iraqi regime, that the crime of Baghdad regime against the state of Kuwait was a fatal stab in the side of the Palestinian issue. After the sinful Iraqi aggression, the Palestinian issue retreated to occupy a marginal place on the list of world interests, and all Arab efforts—in which the state of Kuwait took part—to put the Palestinian issue at the top of the influential world powers' priorities have collapsed.

The minister of information concluded his statement by saying: The State of Kuwait has always lived as a peace-loving country which extends its peaceful hands to all. It was never an aggressor or a usurper. It is Kuwait's right to protect its sovereignty, territory, and people by all means within the framework of international legitimacy. This is what it is doing and will continue to do for the sake of its security and peace and to consolidate security and peace in our Arab region.

Yemen

Al-Jifri Calls On Oman To Let 700 Troops Land

NC1907125294 Paris AFP in English 1055 GMT 19 Jul 94

[Text] Dubayy, United Arab Emirates, July 19 (AFP)—About 700 southern Yemeni soldiers are stranded on a ship off the coast of Oman waiting permission to disembark, an exiled southern leader said.

The appointed "vice president" of the breakaway southern Yemeni state 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Jifri said he had called on the Omani government to allow the troops to land, he told Tuesday's [19 July] edition of the London-based daily AL-HAYAH.

"Their situation is tragic on board a southern Yemeni warship which has no facilities for the people," he said.

Al-Jifri appealed for Sultan Qabus to intervene directly to help the stranded soldiers, saying the ship was currently off the coast of the southern Omani town of Salalah.

He also urged Muscat "to improve the living conditions of 5,000 other troops and their families" who fled to Oman when the two-month civil war in Yemen ended on July 7.

Northern troops smashed the south's resistance capturing the main strongholds of Aden and al-Mukalla, and causing southern leaders to seek refuge in neighbouring countries.

Southern leader 'Ali Salim al-Bid and military officers are among those sheltering in Oman.

Minister on Future Tasks, YSP, Ties With Neighbors

NC2007064294 Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I in Arabic 15 Jul 94 p 2

[Interview with Information Minister Hasan Ahmad al-Lawzi by Muhammad 'Abd-al-Ghani, in Cairo; date not given]

[Text] ['Abd-al-Ghani] Now that the ruinous Yemeni war has stopped, what is your assessment of the current situation? How do you see the future?

[Al-Lawzi] I believe that the end of the war and the triumph of Yemeni unity enabled the Yemeni Government to speak clearly not only to the Yemeni citizens but also to neighboring countries and the entire world. The Yemeni Presidential Council issued a statement outlining major future tasks, asserting that military operations were over, and that the country was embarking on a process of stability, security, and reconstruction. The statement also addressed the need to rebuild the Yemeni individual psychologically and to compensate those who suffered losses in the war.

['Abd-al-Ghani] What can you tell us about relations with neighboring countries?

[Al-Lawzi] We have decided to begin a new chapter of relations with the neighboring countries, particularly in connection with old disputes and the remaining border problems with Saudi Arabia.

['Abd-al-Ghani] Are the remarks by the Yemeni ambassador to Oman about a possible confederation with Saudi Arabia a step toward a new Yemeni future?

[Al-Lawzi] I think these reports are exaggerated, indeed unfounded. There are many other forms for cooperation with the neighboring countries which have no connection with what is being rumored.

['Abd-al-Ghani] What about Sanaa's plan to undertake a complete reshuffle of its diplomatic missions abroad?

[Al-Lawzi] Sanaa wants to expand political representation in the executive, political, and diplomatic positions and make room for competent people from all political parties. Hence the reshuffle in our diplomatic missions abroad.

['Abd-al-Ghani] Does this mark the end of what has been termed the war of the embassies?

[Al-Lawzi] There is no such thing as a war of the embassies. The Presidential Council decided to make changes in the diplomatic posts abroad. It has the right to do so for reasons connected with the homeland's security.

['Abd-al-Ghani] Based on the principle of admitting past errors, does Yemen plan to eliminate the negative factors that drove united Yemen to war?

[Al-Lawzi] Without doubt. Plans are always made with an eye to avoiding negative factors. This will be done on all levels now in order to preserve the country's unity. I feel we have an opportunity to rebuild the nation on the basis of respect for civil rights, a peaceful transfer of power, and equality for all.

['Abd-al-Ghani] What about implementing the general amnesty decision?

[Al-Lawzi] Clemency and a general amnesty are the bases for domestic reform and protecting the weak.

['Abd-al-Ghani] What will be the fate of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP]?

[Al-Lawzi] The YSP is active on the local scene and is part of the governing coalition. Some of its leaders have returned to Sanaa and others are negotiating with the Government in order to return.

['Abd-al-Ghani] Why does Sanaa refuse to host a session of the Arab League Council to discuss ways of clearing the atmosphere and ending differences?

[Al-Lawzi] I believe that this report also is mistaken. Tell me: Why hold the session in Sanaa when the Arab League has its headquarters in Cairo, which we venerate? As for clearing up our differences, we can do this by ourselves.

['Abd-al-Ghani] What are your future plans to use the media to heal the psychological effects of the war?

[Al-Lawzi] We will focus on denouncing every secessionist movement residing in any fraternal country. We will also speak openly to the citizens about the problems we are facing.

['Abd-al-Ghani] What steps have been taken to pay the Egyptian teachers in Yemen?

[Al-Lawzi] A Presidential Council decision has been made to disburse these funds. The teachers have already received their pay up to August 1994.

Al-Zindani on Government, Constitutional Changes

MM1807134594 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 16 Jul 94 pp 1, 4

[Interview with Shaykh 'Abd-al-Majid al-Zindani, member of the Yemeni Presidential Council and "leader of the hard-line tendency" in the Yemeni Reform Grouping, by Sulayman Nimr in Sanaa; date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Nimr] Do you support a cabinet reshuffle and the formation of a national unity government in which all political parties, including the Socialist Party, are represented?

[Al-Zindani] The war has brought about changes, and therefore the government's status should change so as to match these changes. The desired government is that

which achieves the nation's aims and has the House of Representatives' confidence. [passage omitted]

[Nimr] Do you believe that the ruling tripartite coalition still exists, and do you support the Socialist Party's participation in power again?

[Al-Zindani] Socialist Party leaders called for the secession and led the nation into a war. They are ministers and leaders who participated with us [in government], and a large number of them are required to appear before court. So we must rectify their situation with the judiciary before we can address any matter with these people. As for the party as such, we demand that it rectify its position under the state's system and laws. [passage omitted]

[Nimr] What constitutional amendments do you want to introduce to the Yemeni Constitution?

[Al-Zindani] We agreed on them with the Socialist Party, and they were the object of agreement but 'Ali Salim al-Bid violated the agreement and dissuaded the Socialist Party from it.

[Nimr] Does that mean that the Socialist Party agreed to your request to implement constitutional reforms stipulating that the Islamic Shari'ah is the sole source of legislation in Yemen?

[Al-Zindani] Yes. And that is written in the House of Representatives' minutes, and it is a known national principle. We reached a full agreement with the Socialist Party on implementing the Shari'ah and not obstructing it by any other law.

[Nimr] Will you propose to the Yemeni parliament soon to amend the Constitution according to what you want?

[Al-Zindani] The war has produced conditions which have to be rectified in order to resume a normal life. This is one of the aims the people want to achieve and to which Yemeni leaders are committed, and this was approved by the parliament.

[Nimr] Do you mean they agreed to implementing constitutional reforms?

[Al-Zindani] Yes, and they voted on it and they were approved overwhelmingly.

[Nimr] Do you mean reform stipulating the shari'ah as the sole source of laws in Yemen?

[Al-Zindani] Do not fear Islam. If you know it well, you would not fear it. [passage omitted]

[Nimr] Do you not believe that your support for the Islamic Jihad organization, whose members we saw participating in the war, arouses regional and international fears that the role of this group might grow in a manner that threatens other states' security?

[Al-Zindani] I do not know where you saw them. All I saw were Armed Forces personnel from among the people's sons, who joined the Armed Forces during the war. The Jihad group is a small group in our country and its size has been exaggerated. Tell me where did this group participate? [passage omitted]

Official on Need To Heal, Achieve Regional Security

LD1907173794 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1534 GMT 19 Jul 94

[Excerpts] Doha, 19 Jul (KUNA)—Ahmad 'Abdallah al-Hajri, deputy chairman of the House of Representatives said Yemen "bears no bad intentions toward the Gulf states; rather, it extends the hand of cooperation for common interests to confront challenges affecting the region."

In a statement issued to KUNA before leaving Doha for Oman, al-Hajri said: "Yemen wants to strengthen its fraternal bonds and consolidate its foreign relations, particularly with our regional neighbors to achieve security and stability throughout the area."

He said: "Yemen is confident that it did not raise any problems with any of our sister countries and that no harmful elements had left its territory for these countries."

He called on the countries of the region to "help in healing the wounds of the past," pointing out that "disturbances do not serve Yemen nor the countries in the region, but things are proceeding toward an optimistic future that will bring about good for Yemen and for the countries of the region."

On the possibility of renewed fighting in Yemen, especially in light of statements made by a number of Yemeni Socialist Party's leaders, al-Hajri said: "Yemen is keen to embrace all its sons who have left, but in such a way as to achieve the higher interests of Yemen." He was referring to south Yemeni leaders who took refuge in neighboring countries following the fall of Aden to northern troops.

He expressed his belief that: "no real danger is facing Yemen following the recent events." He said he believed that none of the states where some of the southern Yemeni elements had taken refuge would allow them to carry out any activity which would destroy the security and stability of Yemen.

Oman announced that Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary-general of the Yemeni Socialist Party,who sought refuge in Oman after the latest events in Yemen, had retired from political life.

Commenting on the situation in Yemen, al-Hajri said that the climate was now suitable for conducting studies to devise serious solutions based on a studied and scientific foundation for the construction of Yemen and the rejection of the former situation.

He added: "The current priorities include removing the effects of the war and establishing security and stability for all throughout Yemeni territory."

He referred to the dialogue which is currently going on between the political forces and tendencies in Yemen on the formation of a government of national construction. [passage omitted]

Al-Hajri denied that the Yemeni Reform Party was exerting pressure to remove the Socialist Party from the government. He said: "There is no reservation in any quarter about the Socialist Party."

Al-Ahmar 'Optimistic' About Country's Future

MM1907102594 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 17 Jul 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by Faysal Makram and Hasan Sandarusi: "Al-Ahmar Tells AL-HAYAH: No Place for Compromises in Yemen"]

[Excerpt] Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin Husayn al-Ahmar, speaker of the Yemeni House of Representatives [and leader of the Yemeni Reform Grouping], said yesterday that the House of Representatives "believes that acts of courtesy, compromises, and protective solutions have no place in Yemen from now on. And that building development in the new phase require the reactivation of all national efforts that were united during the crisis and the war ignited by Socialist Party rebels and secessionists to destroy the country and thwart unity. But now that Yemeni people's desire for unity and progress has triumphed, we should begin to work to eradicate all the elements and causes that led to the crisis and the war and to stress the exemption from the general amnesty decision of the 16 figures and those who participated with them in causing this catastrophe and committing this crime against the Yemeni people, and to bring them to trial in their presence or in absentia."

In a statement to AL-HAYAH, Shaykh 'Abdallah said that "a bright future is awaiting the Republic of Yemen. I am optimistic about the future after the land has been purged of the rebellious and apostate secessionists. Because they were the cause of everything that obstructed the development march in the country in the various domains."

Regarding the formation of a new government, Shaykh 'Abdallah said: "I cannot talk about a new government at this time. And I do not agree with calling it a national government, because the current government is national, since it came to being through constitutional legitimacy and through the 27 April 1993 elections." He added: "We are committed to the ruling coalition, democracy, and the results of the elections which produced the current constitutional and national legitimacy. And we have no reservations about the Socialist Party's participation in the ruling coalition alongside the [General] People's Congress and the Reform Grouping. So I cannot talk about a new government that has not been discussed yet." [passage omitted]

Defense Minister Comments on Postwar Policy

MM1907124894 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 17 Jul 94 p 6

[Report on interview with Defense Minister Brigadier 'Abd-Rabbuh Mansur Hadi by Sulayman Nimr in Aden; date not given]

[Text] Aden—Yemeni Defense Minister Brigadier 'Abd-Rabbuh Mansur Hadi has stressed that the Yemeni Army was unified "after the legitimate forces' victory over the secessionist forces" in the 70-day war.

In an interview given by him in his new office in the al-Ma'ashiq area in Aden he said that Socialist Party military leaders and fighters "will be returned to their units and posts and the same military ranks, and that the brigades of the Armed Forces will be merged and reformed."

He pointed out that, in accordance with President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's instructions, he will—after his return to Sanaa—"tackle the problems of all military leaders, officers, and soldiers who were inside the Socialist Party army within the Armed Forces in implementation of the general amnesty decision, which covers all leaders and individuals."

He pointed out that the southern army officers and military elements "captured during the battle were held as a precaution until the end of the war. And now that the war is over, we are freeing them."

Brig. 'Abd-Rabbuh announced that he will implement President 'Ali Salih's orders to remove the Army's camps from Aden within the next three days.

He stressed that no forces will remain in the city except public security forces with a view to "turning Aden into a free market so that it will indeed become Yemen's economic capital." The Yemeni defense minister, who led the battle for Aden, admitted that thefts and looting incidents have taken place in Aden. He said that "some destructive elements have looted some public places, the homes of some leaders, and government departments." However, he added: "That is natural and normally happens after any war or conflict." He pointed out that Aden "is accustomed to the occurrence of a conflict in it every few years which results in what happened."

He said that "during the 1986 incidents there were executions, but this time no one has been executed or arrested."

As is known, the Yemeni defense minister was a victim of the January 1986 incidents, as he was the chief of staff of South Yemen and belonged to former President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad's group, which was expelled from Aden after the incidents. Hadi accused "the secessionist leaders" of "being behind the destruction and looting of

most buildings, government departments, and camps. And we have intercepted instructions issued to their troops to do that."

The defense minister urged the citizens of Aden and Socialist Party leaders present in it and members of the former southern army to "be assured about the amnesty decision." He said that he had met with 36 Socialist Party leaders in Aden and granted them military permits to move freely with their escorts and personal firearms "so that they will be assured about the amnesty decision." He pointed out that they are unionist leaders. He also assured the region's states that the Yemeni Army "will never pose a threat to anyone, and that Yemen is seeking relations of good-neighborliness and understanding with all its brothers, especially in neighboring states." He stressed that the Yemeni Government "is indeed seeking to resolve all issues with neighboring states through dialogue and political understanding."

He pointed out that the military command "is currently preparing a list of the Yemeni Army's military equipment that has been smuggled into some neighboring states, in order to recover it through diplomatic means."

On the Yemeni Reform Grouping's participation in the war with the Army, Brig. 'Abd-Rabbuh Mansur said that "numerous volunteers joined the Army, and the Yemeni Reform Grouping is part of the coalition and thus is entitled to defend the legitimate authority in which it is participating." He said he does not fear any sabotage or military resistance operations by Socialist Party leaders abroad.

Telephone Communications Restored to Aden

JN2007095294 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 19 Jul 94

[Text] Communications Minister Muhammad Ahmad al-Anisi has said that telephone communications in the entire Aden Governorate and the cities of Zinjibar, Ja'ar, al-Dali', and Sabir today were brought back to normal, as was the case before the sedition fomented by the secessionists rebels. These cities have been linked with the outside world.

Salih Receives French Ambassador, Message

JN1907144394 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 19 Jul 94

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, has received French Ambassador to Yemen (Martin Lujin).

The ambassador conveyed to the brother chairman of the Presidential Council a message from the French Government on the recent developments and issues of interest to bilateral friendly relations, as well as the French Government's support for the attitudes expressed by our country; namely, continuing to adhere to a democratic, pluralistic approach, freedom of speech, respect for human rights, political dialogue, overcoming all problems, and opening a new chapter.

The chairman of the Presidential Council expressed appreciation for the principled French attitude that supports unity and democracy and embodies the deep relations of friendship and cooperation to enhance Yemeni-French ties. He stressed our country's eagerness to develop these ties and expand prospects of cooperation between the two friendly countries in the service of the common interests of the Yemeni and French peoples.

The brother chairman asked the ambassador to convey his greetings to President Francois Mitterrand and wishes for continued good health and happiness.

Salih Receives Jordanian Ambassador

JN2007085094 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 19 Jul 94

[Text] Presidential Council Chairman Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih today received Jordanian Ambassador Dr. Fayiz al-Rabi' who conveyed to the president a message from his brother Jordanian King Husayn Bin-Talal. The message deals with relations between the two fraternal countries and issues of interest to the Arab nation.

The message reiterated Jordan's support for unity and democracy in our country, and for our people's efforts to reconstruct their country and to overcome the repercussions of the sedition fomented by the rebels in the homeland to fragment its unity.

The message also stressed Jordan's concern—by king, government, and people—to promote the close fraternal ties between the two countries, and to expand cooperation in all fields.

The Presidential Council chairman expressed appreciation for the brothers' stands in Jordan, particularly His Majesty King Husayn Bin-Talal, who, through their genuine pan-Arab stand toward their brothers in Yemen, and their support for Yemeni unity, have proved the deep-rooted fraternal relations, the sincere pan-Arab affiliation, and the triumph for the Arab nation's issues, objectives, and higher interests.

UAE, Djibouti Agree To Return Aircraft, Ships

NC1607204994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1950 GMT 16 Jul 94

[Text] Sanaa, 16 Jul (MENA)—An informed Yemeni source has told MENA's correspondent that the United Arab Emirates [UAE] and Djibouti have informed Yemeni authorities of their agreement to return the aircraft and naval vessels in which the rebels fled after their defeat in the Yemeni war. These include military transport aircraft, helicopters, war ships, and Airbus planes belonging to Yemeni Airlines.

The Sultinate of Oman previously expressed its readiness to return all weapons with which the rebels escaped to the Yemeni Government should a request be made.

Elsewhere, several contacts are taking place in Yemen between a number of Yemeni Socialist Party leaders and the Yemeni Government to begin a dialogue so that the party can arrange its status in light of the recent developments in Yemen and the escape of a number of its leaders who had declared secession.

Iranian Deputy Minister, Relief Team Arrive

LD1907133094 Tehran IRNA in English 1248 GMT 19 Jul 94

[Text] Sanaa, July 19, IRNA—Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Hoseyn Sheykholeslam arrived here Tuesday [19 July] along with a medical team and a convoy of trucks laden with relief supplies. He was greeted by Yemeni officials. Talking to Yemeni Deputy Foreign Minister for Cultural and Consular Affairs Ibrahim al-Sayyid, Sheykholeslam expressed hope that the relief supplies could alleviate to some degree the sufferings and hardships of the Yemeni people arising from the civil war. Sheykholeslam said he was happy to see that the Yemeni people have successfully overcome the hardships of the civil way and have maintained their unity.

The Iranian official said that the six-man Iranian medical team was ready to assist their Yemeni colleagues in treating the war wounded. He said a representative from Iran's Construction Jihad Ministry was now in Sanaa to find out how the ministry could contribute to Yemen's reconstruction.

Salih Confers With Iranian Minister

JN1907202494 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 19 Jul 94

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, today received brother Hoseyn Sheykholeslam, Iranian Foreign Ministry under secretary, who is currently visiting our country. The Iranian official conveyed to the brother president the greetings of Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, as well as the congratulations of the Iranian leadership and people, on ending the rebellion and quelling the sedition ignited by the rebels in the homeland.

During the meeting, they reviewed the brotherly relations and ways of promoting cooperation between the two fraternal countries. The Iranian Foreign Ministry under secretary stressed that Iran supports Yemen's unity, as well as efforts to overcome the destruction caused by the sedition, and also backs our Yemeni people and their march toward development and democracy.

The brother president praised Iran's fraternal support for our people and their unity. He also expressed his appreciation for the brotherly and humanitarian Iranian medical aid, asserting that our Yemeni people appreciate their brothers and friends for supporting them and Yemen's unity, which is a source of good, security, and peace for Yemen, the region, and all the sons of the Arab and Islamic nations.

The brother president asked the Iranian Foreign Ministry under secretary to convey greetings to his brother President Hashemi-Rafsanjani and the Iranian leadership, voicing hope that the fraternal relations between the two countries will further advance for the benefit of both fraternal nations and security and stability in the region. The meeting was attended by brother Ibrahim al-Sa'idi, Yemeni Foreign Ministry under secretary, and the Iranian ambassador to our country.

Medical Team Leader Views Mission

LD2007105394 Tehran IRNA in English 0949 GMT 20 Jul 94

[Text] Sanaa, July 20, IRNA—Head of the Iranian medical team currently in the Yemeni capital said that the 9-member Iranian medical group was in that country to both convey congratulations on behalf of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the occasion of the reunification of the two Yemens and also to extend medical assistance to the war victims.

Dr. Parviz Vazirian made the remark in a meeting Tuesday night with Hammud al-Tahar, a member of the high council for popular aid.

Stressing that Yemeni children did not only belong to Yemen but also to the entire Islamic world, Dr. Vazirian noted that feeling responsibility towards those children the Islamic Republic of Iran had sent them a consignment of medical aid and foodstuff. He voiced readiness of the Iranian medical team for being dispatched to any part of Yemen where more medical services were needed.

In reply, the Yemeni official said that presence of the Iranian delegation in his country would further strengthen the ties between the two countries who share a common religion. Stressing that the Iranian team could offer medical services to the Yemeni people, he added that the Yemeni people after leaving behind war-time hardships were now in need of political and moral patronage of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Opposition 'Sources' Cited on 'Liquidation' Campaign

LD1907170894 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1246 GMT 19 Jul 94

[Text] Vienna, 19 Jul—Sources expert in Iraqi affairs and close to the Iraqi opposition mentioned here today that the security forces of the Iraqi regime have for a few days been launching a bloody and intensive liquidation and purge campaign among party and army ranks in preparation for the holding of the extraordinary regional congress with the aim of appointing 'Uday, Saddam Husayn's son, member in the Regional Command and vice-president, within the framework of coaching him to succeed his father in power in Baghdad.

The sources informed KUNA here that the liquidation and purge campaign has especially affected high-ranking military, civilian, and party officials who came from the town of al-Dawr, which lies at a distance of 160 km from Baghdad, close to the city of Tikrit, because they were one of the Iraqi groups most opposed to 'Uday succeeding Saddam in power, and were the most doubtful of the capability of the president's son to perform this task.

The Vienna bureau of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, quoting well-informed sources in the capital Baghdad, reported that no less than 40 al-Dawri people, residents of the town of al-Dawr, were either killed or wounded at the beginning of the current month in the aftermath of an attack launched by the security forces of the Iraqi regime on a nightclub in al-'Abbas Street, "formerly Abu Nawwas" in Baghdad, where they were holding a secret meeting.

The sources added that a number of vehicles carrying security men surrounded the meeting place before elements from the special security apparatus, which Qusay Saddam Husayn presided over, raided it and opened fire on those who were inside.

In the course of reporting the details of the attack, the sources added that prominent al-Dawri figures and leading personalities, including more than 60 officers and high-ranking party members, called for the aforementioned secret meeting to discuss the campaign of liquidation and dismissal, which was carried out by the head of the Iraqi regime against high-ranking military, security, and party officials who came from the town of al-Dawr.

Sources said elements from the special security apparatus evacuated the areas adjacent to where the incident took place and banned traffic in al-Abbasi street, "Abu Nawwas", which is one of the important streets [in Baghdad] and is situated on the eastern bank of the River Tigris, opposite al-Jamhuri palace in the heart of Baghdad.

Moreover, Iraqi opposition sources affirmed that the first deputy of Saddam and deputy commander-in-chief of the armed forces, Izzat Ibrahim al-Duri, was put under house arrest and that nothing was heard from him since Saddam took the post of premiership.

The sources said that the disappearance of al-Duri from the political arena was preceded and followed by wide arrest campaigns, included a number of al-Duris in the government, officers and party members—among them 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Duri and Khudhr al-Duri as well as Sabir al-Duri, head of the intelligence service who angered Saddam after his failure in running the assassination operation against the Iraqi opponent Talib Suhayl in Beirut, which led to the exposure of the operation and the Lebanese authorities' arrest of diplomats working at the regime's embassy in Beirut, whose participation in the execution of the assassination operation was confirmed. Later on, the Lebanese authorities severed diplomatic relations with Saddam's regime.

The sources added that Saddam was keen on excluding the al-Duris from their posts and that he did not include in his new cabinet any member of the al-Duri family, which indicates that the Tikriti/al-Duri bloc that ruled Iraq for over 25 years has ended, and all its bonds destroyed. This is another indication of the weakness of Saddam's regime, probably an important indicator that the date of his collapse and fall is near, according to experts in Iraqi affairs.

Saddam Confers With Senior Military Commanders

JN1907150794 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1435 GMT 19 Jul 94

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Jul (INA)—President Staff Field Marshal Saddam Husayn, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, has met with the staff lieutenant general assistant Army chief of staff for training, the staff lieutenant general commander of the Air Force, and the staff lieutenant general commander of the Air Defense as well as a number of senior officers at the Air Defense Command.

Speaker on Offer for Dialogue With Kuwait, Elections

JN1907115294 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0753 GMT 19 Jul 94

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Jul (INA)—National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih has said that the offer for the Kuwaiti National Assembly to embark on a serious and genuine dialogue with Iraqi parliamentarians anywhere and in the presence of any party it chooses is still valid. He said such a meeting would aim at arriving at just, constant, and final solutions to the existing problems.

In an interview with the newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH published today, the National Assembly speaker stressed that the Assembly's invitation was not a tactical move, but the outcome of conviction and faith in the importance of clearing the Arab atmosphere as a step forward to restore inter-Arab relations to the level that serves the Arab nation's interests.

He said that any solution to problems in a manner that does injustice to any party will keep open the problems and means that they could explode from time to time. He indicated that the Iraqi invitation for a full and unconditional dialogue is still valid and does not have any timeframe.

On possible National Assembly elections in the near future, Sa'di Mahdi Salih said that because of the circumstances of the brutal 30-state aggression and the abnormal situation in northern Iraq, it is constitutionally impossible to hold new elections. Therefore, he said, the Assembly's current session has been extended for two years, and may be further extended should the circumstances remain as they are. However, he added, free and democratic elections will be held if the abnormal situation in the north comes to an end.

Refuting Western media allegations about so-called democracy in northern Iraq, Salih said that the acts of killing, looting, and burglary there in the name of democracy and under the protection of foreign presence expose the West's democracy allegations.

In this regard, he referred to the farce of elections which were held in northern Iraq under the protection of U.S. and British aircraft, guns, and rifles, noting that results of those elections were rigged. He stressed that this abnormal situation will end as soon as foreign troops leave northern Iraq.

The National Assembly speaker stressed that the democratic option is an irrevocable decision. He stressed that political parties have been established in accordance with the Parties Law currently in force, and that there is nothing to prevent any person from establishing a party in accordance with the said law.

Regarding the press law, Sa'di Mahdi Salih explained that there is a press law currently in force, and that there is no pressing need for issuing an alternative law for now. In this regard, he referred to the great support that the Iraqi press receives from President Saddam Husayn, and to his excellency's remarks to journalists urging them highlight the truth as it is, fearing no one.

Regarding the change of some world states' stands on the issue of the unjust blockade imposed on Iraq, Sa'di Mahdi Salih said that many foreign parliamentary delegations visited Iraq recently and showed understanding of Iraq's stand. He said world stands have begun to shift in favor of Iraq's fair demands.

'Aziz: U.S. Responsible for People's 'Suffering'

JN2007071994 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 0300 GMT 20 Jul 94

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz has held the United States responsible for the continuation of the Iraqi people's suffering due to its insistence on maintaining the blockade clamped on them.

In an interview carried by CNN last night, Tariq 'Aziz said: Most UN Security Council members first want to recognize the progress achieved between Iraq and the United Nations. They also seek an early lifting of the blockade. However, the U.S. and British delegations oppose this legal and natural step.

He added: The U.S. delegation interprets UN Security Council Resolution No. 687 in an erroneous and devastating way, and adds other conditions not included in the resolution, using as a pretext strange interpretations that conflict with the letter and spirit of the resolution.

Tariq 'Aziz refuted U.S. claims about human rights used in order to maintain the blockade on Iraq. He stressed that the Americans and their allies want to keep Iraq out of the oil market in the service of their own interests.

The deputy prime minister clarified that the objective of this game is to enable their allies in the region to exceed their oil production quotas, and, consequently, to pay more money to the U.S. treasury.

Concluding, Tariq 'Aziz said the blockade clamped on the Iraqi people should be lifted since Iraq has fulfilled its obligations toward the UN Security Council resolutions, particularly Paragraph 22 of UN Security Council Resolution 687.

BABIL Urges Russia To Veto U.S. Sanctions Policy

JN2007103194 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0900 GMT 20 Jul 94

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Jul (INA)—The newspaper BABIL has said the announcement of a disagreement with Washington's political purposes in UN Security Council lobbies must go beyond the issuance of press statements to a use of the veto right to curb U.S. aggressiveness.

In an editorial today, BABIL adds: There is no denying that the positions of some big powers and other members of the UN Security Council with regard to the sanctions clamped on Iraq for the past four years have experienced a tangible development. Nonetheless, the sanctions have remained in place regardless of these positions, and in spite of the Russian announcement regarding anti-Iraq U.S. purposes.

The paper expresses general satisfaction that the UN Security Council members, with the exception of Washington and London, are now strongly convinced that the intent to hurt Iraq reflects purely U.S. wishes. The paper adds that those who embrace these convictions, namely, Russia and others, must use the veto right against the decision to extend the sanctions at the UN Security Council.

BABIL stresses the need for a counterveto at the UN Security Council, saying that a confirmation of these good intentions toward Iraq requires those showing them not to comply with U.S. wishes, and to formulate a different position calling for lifting the sanctions. The

paper says that such a stand would be in harmony with the principles of national independence of the countries concerned. It would also promote the interests of these countries, the paper argues.

Paper Sees 'Development' in World Stand on Sanctions

JN1907115994 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0617 GMT 19 Jul 94

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Jul (INA)—AL-'IRAQ has said that the international position on the issue of the unjust blockade has noticeably developed in favor of Iraq's fair demands despite all the U.S.-Zionist alliance's attempts to distort facts and conceal the true objectives of its aggression against Iraq and its patient, militant people.

In its editorial today, the paper says that one of the most conspicuous indications of this development is that many influential world powers inside and outside the UN Security Council no longer automatically reiterate the U.S. pretexts, which are full of lies and misrepresentation.

In this context, the paper points out the European stand, which is witnessing a gradual improvement and developing an earnest desire to listen to the Iraq's viewpoint and irrefutable facts, away from U.S. influence and the hostile propaganda machine's attempt to impose a blackout on the honest and objective Iraqi stand, which reflects a desire to cooperate in a serious and productive manner to end the chapter of the unjust blockade.

The paper says that the importance of this development in the international position lies in the call for the UN Security Council to honor its commitments in return for Iraq's fulfillment of the resolutions that have been imposed on it under known pretexts. Simply, this means that the UN Security Council should quickly move to implement Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687, which calls for lifting the oil blockade as a prelude for lifting the entire blockade.

Concluding its editorial, the paper says that the threads of the plot of the blockade are getting dismantled and its cards scattered in all directions. It is not an easy job anymore for the losers, led by the leader of evil, America, to convince or pressure international parties into accepting their aggressive policy against Iraq and the Arab nation.

CBI Governor Explains Government Bond Issue

JN1707163894 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 17 Jul 94 p 21

["Exclusive" interview with Iraqi Central Bank Governor Dr. 'Isam Rashid Huwaysh by Ahmad 'Abd-al-Majid in Baghdad; date not given]

[Text] ['Abd-al-Majid] The Central Bank of Iraq [CBI] intends to issue bonds called "loan bonds of the Iraqi Government." What are the objectives of this step? According to these bonds, what is the cash surplus which the Iraqi banks will be allowed to withdraw?

[Huwaysh] This step has many objectives, including withdrawing part of the cash money, reducing speculationson the market, and steering the money of those who have small savings toward the banking system in order to provide opportunities to increase their income, in addition to providing additional revenues for the state to reduce the deficit in the general budget. Bonds worth half a billion [Iraqi] dinars will be made available as the first group, from 16 July until 31 July. The shares [as published] will be sold for their nominal value. They are divided into three groups: 1,000; 5,000; and 10,000 [dinars] groups. After that date, bonds will be available at the stock exchange, so they will be sold according to their market price, which results from supply and demand. Based on this, the CBI will announce the daily selling and purchasing rates through the media.

['Abd-al-Majid] When will the second group of bonds be made available? Does an Arab person residing in Iraq have the right to purchase these bonds?

[Huwaysh] The second batch will be made available after the first batch is consumed. [Non-Iraqi] Arabs do not have the right to own these bonds. Among the privileges of these bonds is the fact that each of them is supplied with five coupons which bear simple bank interest of 20 percent. The bonds expire five years after their issuance. One wishing to abandon these bonds can return them to the CBI according to the declared rates. These bonds are nominal; in other words, the CBI will register the bond in the owner's name in special records to avoid possible forgery. On the back of the bond there are spaces for the transfer of ownership where the name of the new owner will be registered; it will also be registered in the CBI records.

['Abd-al-Majid] Was the idea of these bonds a domestic one, or have such bonds been issued by states which experienced circumstances similar to Iraq's circumstances?

[Huwaysh] Many states have resorted to this method. Bonds are financial papers that prove the rights of the borrower. Such bonds are usually issued by government circles or by firms or banks. There are many models in world states, which differ in details, but converge on compiling small savings and employing them in achieving the objective of these bonds. Since the Iraqi state was established, the government has issued bonds in various periods of time. We believe the bonds are needed more under the circumstances of the blockade, at which time a state would reduce funding by issuing cash money. This would increase money in the Iraqi market, so its expansion should be curbed.

['Abd-al-Majid] In your capacity as an economist who made daring proposals before assuming this post, how do you view the situation of the Iraqi economy? How many years will this economy take in order to regain its well-being after the oil embargo is lifted?

[Huwaysh] The Iraqi state's issuance of these bonds reflects confidence in the Iraqi economy and in its ability to fulfill obligations. The situation of the economy in our country can be described as an acute, rather than a chronic, illness. In other words, any improvement in Iraq's relations with the UN Security Council can quickly be reflected on the economy. The eloquent lessons our economy has learned during the blockade should serve the post-blockade phase by benefiting from the experience of rationalizing the government activities and consolidating the role of establishments in public life.

['Abd-al-Majid] In statements to the press, some Iraqi economists have proposed the idea of issuing supported coins, alongside the circulated banknotes, to help citizens confront the results of inflation and the price hike. Germany used this means to confront its post-war troubles. Do you intend to implement that idea?

[Huwaysh] Many countries took various measures after certain crises to support their currencies. I believe the Iraqi economy will not need most of these measures. This economy is described as a promising economy, not only because Iraq has oil wealth, but also because it has large agricultural and industrial revenues. What it really needs, I believe, is organization, which will be enough to remedy the largest part of our problems after the lifting of the blockade.

['Abd-al-Majid] Does Iraq maintain close banking relations with Jordan?

[Huwaysh] Iraq is a besieged country, and it has no banking relations with the outer world.

['Abd-al-Majid] Have your efforts to release Iraq's financial assets in international banks succeeded?

[Huwaysh] We have managed to release just part of these assets with the knowledge of the UN Sanctions Committee in order to provide food and medicine for the citizens. Several billions are still frozen, as we have previously announced.

['Abd-al-Majid] Iraqi media organs have published lists of Iraq's debts in Arab countries, including Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. When will Iraq recover them and what is the reality of these debts?

[Huwaysh] ... [no answer as published]

['Abd-al-Majid] Will Iraq demand interest on these debts?

[Huwaysh] Our money frozen in world banks are all covered at least by a banking interest called "liber" [as published].

['Abd-al-Majid] Reports say that Iraq intends to issue a 250-dinar banknote. When will this take place?

[Huwaysh] We have not felt the need for this banknote because the CBI and the banking system have a large reserve of currency deposited, following the banks' liquidity crisis that occurred during the first quarter of this year.

['Abd-al-Majid] Reports also say the current 100-dinar banknote denomination was printed in Pakistan. Is that true?

[Huwaysh] It is not the duty of the banking system to know where the banknotes are printed. However, it is agreed that this banknote enjoys highly secure characteristics.

['Abd-al-Majid] Does this mean Iraq cannot print banknotes enjoying highly secure characteristics?

[Huwaysh] Printing banknotes inside the country requires tight security measures. The United Kingdom has been holding large quantities of Iraqi banknotes printed before the blockade resolution was issued. Although such issues are not covered by the blockade, Britain refuses to release these banknotes, to harm our economy.

['Abd-al-Majid] What effect has Saddam Husayn's assumption of the post of prime minister had on the banking system in Iraq?

[Huwaysh] President Saddam Husayn's direct assumption of the highest post in the executive authority has had a direct effect on the performance of all state institutions. Now, heads of government offices can meet with his excellency the president and give an accurate picture about the work of their offices and the performance of the national economy. They can also listen to his directives directly. Thus, basic links in the process of decisionmaking have been reduced. This has resulted in invigorating the Iraqi executive authority, something which I expect to yield positive results in the short run, as evidenced by the numerous decisions that have organized public life in the country.

['Abd-al-Majid] Since the Iraq-Iran war, the state has refrained from making public the country's state budget. Why?

[Huwaysh] This is natural for Iraq, under the current circumstances. However, the budget was debated by the National Assembly (Parliament), the Council of Ministers, and many specialized technical committees before it was passed and became law. In my opinion, the 1994 budget was well organized under the current circumstances experienced by the Iraqi economy. We see no justification for announcing figures, especially since it is a directory budget that aims at giving the state agencies flexibility in responding to the developments of the current economic situation.

['Abd-al-Majid] You are one of the advocates of "institutionalizing" the economy. Are you satisfied with the economic performance in light of the noticeable disorder caused by the economic blockade?

[Huwaysh] The weakness of institutions is a general feature of the economies of developing countries. Enhancing institutionalization and its role is an objective of prime importance. However, these countries face many complications. As a developing country, Iraq suffers from economic and administrative immaturity. Therefore, institutionalization in Iraq is still less than our aspirations. Leader President Saddam Husayn has always stressed the importance of institutionalization to arrive at mature decisions. However, we still have a long way to go before we arrive institutions capable of making decisions.

['Abd-al-Majid] Has the issue of the revenues of the oil pipeline that will be emptied been resolved?

[Huwaysh] This is still being discussed with the United Nations and the Turkish side.

['Abd-al-Majid] But the Turks said they have obtained the required approvals and that they will pay Iraq's share from the revenues of that quantity of oil to purchase food and other basic commodities?

[Huwaysh] The Turks are under two-way pressure. First, they are under the pressure of need because of their country's economic problems. Second, they are under U.S. pressure. Therefore, we have heard them making statements and promises which they could not keep. This time, we hope that they will be able to place their national interest above the need to respond to U.S. pressure.

['Abd-al-Majid] There are indications that contracts have been signed with U.S., French, Italian, and other companies. What is the significance of these contracts and how much are they worth?

[Huwaysh] Iraq has recently seen a large-scale flow of government and private delegations, as well as investment company delegations. Specifically, this means that the chance for prolonging and maintaining the blockade has become weak and that there is confidence in the Iraqi economy and its enormous potential. This also indicates the soundness of Iraq's way of dealing with the crisis of the blockade.

['Abd-al-Majid] It has been rumored that the contracts that U.S. companies have signed with Iraq are worth $4 billion and that the contracts signed with French companies are worth $1.5 billion?

[Huwaysh] I have no information about that.

RCC Decision Permits Authorization of Overtime

JN2007105994 Baghdad AL-QADISIYAH in Arabic 11 Jul 94 p 2

[Article by Sadiq Jabr: "RCC Decision Grants Ministers and Heads of Departments That Are not Linked to Ministries the Power To Ask Their Employees To Work Overtime"]

[Text] AL-QADISIYAH has learned that the Revolution Command Council [RCC] has issued a decision granting the minister or the head of a department that is not linked to a ministry the power to ask an employee to work overtime beyond official hours, provided this is done through a written order giving the justifications and explaining the work to be undertaken by the employee during these hours. The overtime period, which is renewable, must not exceed three months each time.

The decision stipulates that the immediate superior or highest official in charge of the employee shall follow up the employee's fulfillment of his assignment under the supervision of the concerned minister or head of the department that is not linked to a ministry.

Saddam Allocates Irrigation Pumps for Nahr al-'Izz

JN2007103894 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic 13 Jul 94 p 2

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn, may God preserve and protect him, has ordered the allocation of another 100 irrigation pumps for peasants and farmers in Nahr al-'Izz River villages in Maysan Governorate.

Maysan Governor Ahmad 'Abdallah Salih said: This generous offer expresses the continuous great care and attention leader President Saddam Husayn, may God preserve and protect him, gives to the people of the region to ensure the irrigation of reclaimed lands in the coming agricultural season.

The governor added: Leader President Saddam Husayn, may God preserve him, had previously ordered the allocation of 232 irrigation pumps to ensure expansion in the cultivation of strategic crops in order to defeat the unfair blockade imposed on our steadfast people.

Trade Agreements Signed With Foreign Firms

JN1507125994 Baghdad AL-QADISIYAH in Arabic 10 Jul 94 p 1

[Text] Baghdad (INA)—The Iraqi Union of Chambers of Commerce has signed 40 trade agreements with the representatives of Italian, French, Turkish, and Canadian companies during the first half of 1994.

Union President Zuhayr 'Abd-al-Ghafur Yunus has told the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY that these agreements covered agricultural, industrial, health, and commercial fields and that the representatives of those companies have expressed a desire to export their products to Iraq as soon as the blockade is lifted.

It will be recalled that trade delegations led by Nyre Karnayev [name as transliterated], director of the French Industries Union; Albert Shamoun [name as transliterated], president of the Canadian A. S. International Trading Company; and Sergio Masiliti [name as transliterated], chairman of the Italian-Arab Chamber of Commerce have visited Iraq recently and held talks with

Iraqi officials on means of strengthening trade relations between Iraq and those companies.

Talabani, Barzani Meet in Salah al-Din

NC1707193994 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1605 GMT 17 Jul 94

[Text] Brother Jalal Talabani, secretary general of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK], visited the Salah al-Din summer resort in Irbil Governorate on 15 July. He was warmly welcomed by Mas'ud Barzani, leader of the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP] and by KDP Political Bureau member Fadil Miran.

Talabani and Barzani held a private meeting that lasted over three hours. This meeting complements the meeting that the two leaders held in Irbil recently. During the meeting, which was held in a frank atmosphere, they evaluated the efforts being undertaken by the PUK and KDP political bureaus to normalize the situation in the Kurdistan region.

Talabani Discusses Efforts To Normalize Conditions

NC1807195694 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1600 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Text] Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] Secretary General brother Jalal Talabani held a news conference at his residence in Irbil last night, Sunday [17 July].

He discussed ways of maintaining security and public order in Irbil in particular and Kurdistan in general. He assured the citizens that all possible efforts are being made to restore security and public order to the city.

Regarding ongoing efforts to improve conditions in Kurdistan, the PUK secretary general referred to the recommendations and decisions made by the PUK Political Bureau to restore normal life in Kurdistan.

Turkish Parliamentarians Meet Assembly Speaker

JN1907154894 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1400 GMT 19 Jul 94

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Jul (INA)—National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih has met with Erdal Inonu, chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee at the Turkish Grand National Assembly, and the delegation accompanying him.

During the meeting, Salih expressed his gratitude and appreciation for the continued great efforts Inonu is making to return Iraqi-Turkish relations to normal and end the economic blockade imposed on the Iraqi people. He asserted that both countries have suffered from the repercussions of the continued blockade.

Salih also hailed the Turkish position on Iraq's territorial integrity. He indicated that Iraqi-Turkish relations are firm historic ties which cannot be affected by the current extraordinary events and circumstances in the region.

The head of the Turkish delegation stressed his pressing desire to improve and promote bilateral relations and end the economic blockade imposed on Iraq.

Inonu arrived in Baghdad leading a parliamentary delegation on a visit lasting several days at the National Assembly's invitation. He expressed gratitude and pleasure for visiting Iraq as a neighboring and dear country and as a friend of Turkey.

In a statement to the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY, Inonu said his visit to Iraq aims to discuss the scopes of Iraqi-Turkish cooperation and ways to promote them in order to serve the interest of both friendly peoples. He asserted that he has for some time been working to promote bilateral relations and end the economic blockade imposed on the Iraqi people.

Inonu also asserted that Turkey has sustained huge losses as a result of the continued blockade on Iraq. He pointed out that he is continuing his efforts to reach an agreement on emptying the Iraqi oil pipeline crossing Turkish territory, so this can be a step toward restoring normal bilateral economic and trade relations. He asserted that Turkish businessman are ready to export their goods and products to Iraq.

Inonu appreciated the constructive and energetic cooperation between Iraq and the United Nations as well as Iraq's fulfillment of its commitments according to the UN Security Council resolutions.

The delegation accompanying Inonu comprises Yuksel Yalova, representative of the Motherland Party for the city of Aydin; Serif Ercan, representative of the True Path Party for the city of Edirne; Ahmet Dokulmez, representative of the Welfare Party for the city of Kahramanmaras; and Okan Kizar [name as transliterated], adviser to the Foreign Affairs Committee.

Confer With Trade Minister

JN1907165794 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1510 GMT 19 Jul 94

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Jul (INA)—Trade Minister Dr. Muhammad Mahdi Salih today met with Erdal Inonu, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee at the Turkish Grand National Assembly, and the delegation accompanying him.

During the meeting, the minister reviewed the repercussions of the continued blockade on the Iraqi people as a result of depriving them of food, medicine, and other requirements of life. He also reviewed the magnitude of destruction which the aggressors inflicted on the commercial food installations during their unfair aggression on Iraq as well as the efforts which the Iraqis made to reconstruct these installations.

Inonu emphasized the Turkish Government's desire to establish and promote economic and trade relations with Iraq in a way that will serve the interest of both peoples. He noted that the continued economic blockade has

largely harmed the economic, trade, and agricultural relations between Iraq and Turkey.

Hold Meeting With Ba'th Party Official

JN1907201494 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 19 Jul 94

[Text] Comrade Latif Nusayyif Jasim, deputy official in charge of the Foreign Relations Office at the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party's Iraq Command, has met with Erdal Inonu, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee at the Turkish Grand National Assembly, and the delegation accompanying him.

During the meeting, comrade Jasim stressed the importance of promoting relations between the Ba'th Party and the Turkish parties. These relations stem from old historic roots between Iraq and Turkey. Jasim added that the zealous Iraqis under President leader Saddam Husayn will continue the march of reconstruction and defiance with all available capabilities and means in order to fragment the unfair blockade and foil the evil aggressive schemes. These schemes aim to undermine Iraq's sovereignty as well as its people's unity and territorial integrity, he said.

Jasim urged the friendly Turkish parties and personalities to undertake an energetic and wide move on various levels in order to end the unfair blockade on the Iraqi people. He asserted that Iraq had fulfilled its commitments according to the UN Security Council resolutions.

The head of the Turkish parliamentary delegation said he hoped the blockade on Iraq would end, and that regional security and peace would be restored. He lauded the Iraqis' patience, jihad, and endurance under their country's circumstances as a result of the blockade. The meeting was attended by the comrade head of the Foreign Relations Office at the Ba'th Party's Iraq Command.

Ramadan, New PRC Ambassador Discuss Ties

JN1807144394 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1355 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Jul (INA)—Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan today received Sun Bigan, the PRC's new ambassador in Baghdad.

They discussed ties between the friendly countries and explored ways to expand these relations.

The two sides agreed that China must play a key role in removing the sanctions imposed and sustained by the U.S. Administration. They also agreed on the importance of Iraq returning to the international fold so it may contribute to the promotion of peace, security, and progress around the world.

Ma'ruf Confers With PRC Ambassador

JN1907143894 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1345 GMT 19 Jul 94

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Jul (INA)—Vice President [as received] Taha Muhyi-al-Din Ma'ruf today received Sun Bigan, the PRC's new ambassador in Baghdad. During the meeting, they reviewed the developing relations between the two friendly countries that will serve the interest of both peoples.

Tel Aviv Further Reacts to Buenos Aires Bombing

Peres Addresses Knesset

TA1907151094 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 3 Network in Hebrew 1326 GMT 19 Jul 94

[Address by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres at a "special Knesset session" in Jerusalem in reply to motions on the agenda regarding the bombing of the Jewish community building in Buenos Aires—live]

[Text] Mr. Speaker, distinguished Knesset: The Israeli Government expresses deep shock and great sorrow at the murderous attack against innocent people, Jews and non-Jews, in the heart of the Jewish community in Buenos Aires. The Israeli people are united in their heartfelt identification with our brothers in this magnificent and dear community, as well as with the Argentine people and its elected leaders. Let me take this opportunity to tell them that we share a common fate. Their loss constitutes a loss for the entire Jewish people. We express our heartfelt condolences to the families of the dead and wish a speedy recovery to the injured. Together, we shall act against these despicable murderers.

Mr. Speaker, the Israeli Government will neither forgive nor forget this act of heinous terrorism, this foul attack against people who were innocent of any crime. We are familiar with the black-hearted and bloodthirsty source from whence these murderous individuals come. We shall not be cowed by them; neither shall we cease our pursuit until the last of them is vanquished. I believe we will defeat them. Not only we but the entire world must condemn this horrendous act and take determined action in order to purge the curse of terrorism and cast out those who would shed the blood of innocents. Such crime has an international scope, and any counteraction must also be international in nature. The soil of Argentina has already soaked up the blood of innocent civilians, including Israelis who were innocent of any crime, in the terrible terrorist attack against our embassy there a mere 28 months ago. The tracks then led to Iran. This time again, the initial information in our possession indicates the involvement of hostile Middle Eastern elements who stop at nothing in their bid to harm peace-loving individuals.

We appreciate the fact that the Argentine president and government have recognized their responsibility and expressed readiness to make all the efforts necessary to capture those responsible for the attack. We appreciate their immediate launching of rescue efforts. We thank the leaders of the Argentine people for their words of encouragement and support for the local Jewish community, as well as for President Menem's message to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and for Foreign Minister Di Tella's message to me.

Mr. Speaker, the Israeli Government will wage a relentless war against terrorism. It will do everything to cut off the hands of the murderers and of their sponsors. The enemies of peace will neither deter the Israeli Government nor divert it from its path, which is the opposite of theirs. The positive developments currently taking place in our region constitute the clearest proof of our ability to lead the process and not capitulate to them. The success of the peace process will deal a heavy blow to all those attempting to undermine it. The terrorists will neither dictate nor impede this important process.

Distinguished Knesset, as soon as news of this disaster broke, the Foreign Ministry was put on an emergency footing and helped organize a special rescue team, which is set to arrive in Argentina in several hours. The delegation includes members of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] rescue unit, forensic medicine and trauma experts, sophisticated rubble-moving equipment. The rescue team will also be accompanied by Foreign Ministry personnel. The Foreign Ministry situation room will continue to operate around the clock and maintain special telephone lines in order to permit continuous contact with our people in the Buenos Aires embassy and relay answers to people anxious about the fate of their relatives in Argentina and Israel. Our Ambassador in Buenos Aires Yitzhaq Aviram and senior officials at our embassy there are constantly assisting rescue efforts and extending support to the bereaved families.

This is a difficult time for all of us, until our people—a people that has known many periods of suffering in its history—finds within itself, as it has in the past, the strength of spirit needed to continue along the path that will lead us and our children toward a safer future, together with other peace-loving nations.

We will use every means at our disposal to find the trail of the killers and prevent them from perpetrating their crimes in the future. I am sure that we will emerge triumphant.

Rabin: Argentine Security Insufficient

TA2007080094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 20 Jul 94

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has indicated the Argentine authorities are not doing enough to stop terrorist attacks in their country. The premier spoke to the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. David Ze'ev reports:

[Begin recording] [Ze'ev] As we have already reported, Argentine President Carlos Menem expressed his amazement in a phone call to Prime Minister Rabin that his country was chosen again, in his words, as a terrorist target after the Israeli Embassy bombing in 1992. To the question why, Rabin says he told Menem: That is something you should ask yourself. That, according to a Knesset official at the closed-door meeting of the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee.

Outside to reporters, Rabin said as in the case of the embassy bombing this attack took place after Israeli action against Hizballah and its allies in Lebanon.

[Rabin] This time, again in Argentina, the bomb blew up in the center of the activities of the Jewish community in Buenos Aires, in Argentina. It came about after a certain number of setbacks that Hizballah suffered from Israel: the bringing into Israel of Mustafa al-Dirani, the man that was responsible for the holding of our navigator Ron Arad and we believe that he handed him over to an Iranian element; the attack on the force and the training center of the Hizballah in the Lebanon valley adjacent to the Syrian border between them and Lebanon. Other setbacks brought to them to carry out another attack on peaceful people, innocent people, and their main blame was that they are Jewish, or they were Jewish.

[Ze'ev] Rabin again urged the international community to act against Islamic terrorism, which he said had spread all over the world. [end recording]

Mosad Team Leaves for Inquiry

TA2007113194 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 20 Jul 94 pp A1, A10

[Report by Eytan Rabin, Aluf Ben, and 'Aqiva Eldar in Beunos Aires]

[Excerpts] An Israeli Mosad team left yesterday for Beunos Aires to assist Argentine intelligence in apprehending the planners of the attack at the Jewish community center in the town. [passage omitted] The Mosad personnel left for Beunos Aires following a call by Argentine President Carlos Menem to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. Defense sources said that the Mosad officials will hand over to the Argentine security services information Israel has about terrorist organizations which might be involved in the attack.

Israel believes that the bomb was planted near the building by Argentine citizens recruited by foreigners. It is believed that the bomb was planted inside a car, and that a pro-Iranian organization was behind the action. [passage omitted]

The defense establishment yesterday held deliberations on the bombing. It was decided to bolster security at all Israeli Embassies and buildings housing Jewish institutions around the world. Defense sources said that "security at Israeli representations abroad is good, but that many buildings housing Jewish community organizations are not sufficiently safe." [passage omitted]

The prime minister's bureau is studying the possibility of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin paying a short visit to Beunos Aires next week on his way back from his meeting with King Husayn in Washington. Rabin is leaving for the United States in an Air Force aircraft, but he would have to extend his stay abroad for at least another two days if he decides to visit Argentina. [passage omitted]

Rabin Says Peace With Jordan To Take 'Long Time'

TA1907164594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 19 Jul 94

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has said that Israel will not accept a peace treaty with Jordan that only demarcates a part of the border. Any peace treaty must clearly map out the entire border from Elat to al-Yarmuk. This agreement must also apply to the Palestinians and the borders of the autonomy, Yitzhaq Rabin said. Speaking before the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, the prime minister cautioned against exaggerated expectations and asserted that the signing of a peace agreement with Jordan will still take a long time. In his assessment, the Jordanian Government is acting out of domestic considerations while facing strong political opposition at home. Jordan's actions are also motivated by fear of Syria, its northern neighbor; at the same time, however, Jordan is competing with the PLO.

Prime Minister Rabin said he believes the United States has reached a memorandum of understanding with Jordan, according to which Jordan will reduce the size of its Army in exchange for U.S. aid. Israel has a vested interest in a strong Jordanian Army.

Rabin said that there had been general reports and assessments with regard to a possible Hizballah retaliation for the abduction of Mustafa al-Dirani and the severe blows the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] dealt the organization in south Lebanon. Although there were no specific warnings, the security services were given instructions to prepare for a possible reaction. The prime minister added that Israel had also expected Hizballah to retaliate on the local level. Several such attacks indeed occurred but were nothing out of the ordinary. Rabin reiterated that the perpetrators of the attack in Buenos Aires were apparently tied in with extremist Islamic elements linked to Iran, although he said he is not absolving either Syria or Hizballah, which is under its control, of responsibility.

[A similar report by Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 1500 GMT on 19 July adds that "in response to a question from Likud committee member Binyamin Netanyahu whether Israel would be ready to withdraw from all of the Golan Heights, Rabin replied differently than in the past. Rabin said: I have a commitment not to leave the Golan Heights. Then he went on to say: If, God forbid, such a situation does evolve, there will be a referendum. So said Rabin, not ruling out a complete withdrawal. And on the Palestinians, Prime Minister Rabin described new arrangements at the Erez checkpoint from Gaza that Israel is demanding take effect before the Strip is reopened to Palestinians wishing to leave. The security checks of Palestinians will take place on the Palestinian side. They will cross into the terminal in groups of a couple of dozens, as Rabin put it, with no group passing through as long as the group in front of it

has not left the terminal, and the establishment of a Palestinian reserve force at the ready to break up demonstrations."

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1505 GMT on 19 July carries a related report, adding that "Rabin added that he tried to explain to 'Arafat that until the PLO chairman establishes the institutions needed for Western-style financial management of the monies promised him by the West, he will not be able to resolve the state of dire economic hardship in the Gaza Strip. Rabin also recounted that negotiations are currently under way with the United Nations to transfer the UNESCO [UN Educational Scientific Cultural Organization] headquarters from Vienna to the Gaza Strip. UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali is exerting pressure but, Rabin said, he has a problem with his own employees, who for some reason have no desire to exchange the opera and veal chops for muezzins and humus."]

Peres on Negotiations With Jordan, Future Peace

NC2007064794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2102 GMT 19 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 19 Jul (MENA)—Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has said he believes that the meeting that Jordan's King Husayn and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin will hold with U.S. President Bill Clinton next week will result in the issuance of a statement or declaration.

In an interview with the newspaper AL-AHRAM published Wednesday [20 July], Peres noted that he expects the meeting to lead to full peace and understanding between Jordan and Israel, which will in turn produce a comprehensive Middle East peace.

He added that numerous issues have been resolved, including border demarcation and the water problem, and that other issues have been tackled. He said negotiations on these matters might take weeks or months.

The Israeli foreign minister said that during his upcoming meeting with Jordanian Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, he will try to lay the groundwork for another meeting in Washington. He said this meeting will complete the work begun during his earlier meeting with President Clinton and Jordanian Crown Prince Hasan.

Peres pointed out that although he expects some haggling over the border issue during tomorrow's meeting, he believes it can be settled and that Israel can demarcate the entire length of its border with Jordan.

Concerning the Palestinian-Israeli negotiating track, Peres remarked that Israel is willing to make progress on transferring authority, elections, and financing and that it is ready to hold a quadripartite meeting with Egypt, Jordan, and the Palestinians to discuss other issues.

Peres said it is possible to solve the issue of transferring power to the Palestinians in the occupied territories, pointing out that more complicated problems have already been settled.

He said he believes that the presence of Israeli settlers in the Palestinian territories poses no problems and remarked that the difficulty lies in establishing good relations between the two communities. If this happens, he said, there will be no need to partition any land into border areas, as he put it.

Peres stated that he expects the shape of the Middle East to change completely in five years and that joint investment and tourist projects will be set up that will raise the standard of living of all nations in the region.

Peres on Withdrawal From 'All of the Golan'

TA1907192094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 19 Jul 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has said that Israel will on no account accept Syria's demand for a withdrawal from all of the Golan Heights before Damascus expresses readiness to discuss peace. Peres stressed that the withdrawal is linked to the nature of peace and security arrangements. He went on to note that a comprehensive peace in the region cannot be achieved without Syria. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that Foreign Minister Peres was speaking at a Knesset debate on his recent statements that Israel recognizes Syrian sovereignty over the Golan Heights.

Likud Knesset Member [MK] Yehoshu'a Matza said during the debate that Secretary of State Warren Christopher and President al-Asad should know that with regard to the Golan Heights, the government does not represent the majority of the Israeli public.

Labor MK Eli Goldschmidt demanded that the government propose a formula for a compromise on the Golan Heights that will also be acceptable to members of his faction.

Says MK's Support Amending Law

TA2007104194 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 20 Jul 94 p A1

[Report by Aluf Ben, Gid'on Alon, and news agencies]

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said yesterday in the Knesset plenum that "over half the Knesset members believe that the Golan Law should be amended." Peres also said "the law in its current form is unacceptable." This statement by the foreign minister should be added to what he said last Thursday [14 July] that "Israel again and again recognized Syrian sovereignty over the Golan Heights."

The two declarations—about Syrian sovereignty and the need to annul the Golan Law—were suggested to Prime

Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by Peres three months ago as possible ways of breaking the deadlock in the peace negotiations with Syria.

Weizman on Peace Issues, Settlements

NC2007083894 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 16 Jul 94 p 5

[Interview with President Ezer Weizman by Ahmad Nafi' in Jerusalem; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Nafi'] You were one of the architects of the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty. Late President al-Sadat was especially eager to reach agreement with you. How do you view the opportunity for achieving full peace in the region?

[Weizman] First of all, peace will definitely be achieved in the end. The question is how much trouble we will face on the road to peace and how long it will take. All important issues require patience. I am not saying that things were easy with Egypt, but they were less difficult than they are now due to the psychological effect of al-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem and Menachem Begin's welcoming gesture. It was similar to breaking down the Berlin Wall. The whole process took 15 months, from December 1977 to March 1979. But we are now dealing with more complicated problems, such as the Palestinian problem, which is regarded as a domestic issue. [passage omitted]

What we really need is a great, bold leader who looks to the future (and who also understands our position). It was easy to negotiate over Sinai because it is a large desert. But things are different when it comes to decisions on Gaza, Hebron, Janin, Tulkarm, and other places. As for us, the Israelis, despite the stubbornness we show (and this is not completely bad), we do have a deeply rooted feeling of insecurity because we have fought many wars. We fought the Palestinians, the Jordanians, the Iraqis, the Saudis, and we also fought you, the Syrians, and the Lebanese for many years. Therefore you should understand that the Israeli people have a strong feeling of insecurity. I now feel that there is an intention and a desire to reach an understanding, but the Palestinian issue is a very sensitive one. We want to see how things will develop in Gaza. We can look at it as an experiment and see how things develop. We cannot judge the situation now, because only three or four weeks have passed.

Jordan is also a very important party. I hope the king will take a positive stand. But the most important country is Syria. This does not mean that Jordan is not important, but Syria now has a strong army and a strong air force and this creates a security problem for us. I am not saying that Jordan does not pose the same problem, but Syria represents a bigger security problem. In any case, I am certain we are going to have greater understanding between us for the sake of peace. Therefore, I can say that we are moving in the right direction, though not always on the right course, and we will reach our objective in the end. If you do not move on the right course all the time, the question that arises is: How many incidents will there be? Of course, you are going to have a few of them, but I hope they will be minimal. [passage omitted]

[Nafi'] What is your view of withdrawing from the Golan Heights, taking into account that, without the Egyptian precedent, there would be no peace?

[Weizman] First, the experience with Egypt was an integrated one, in the sense that it resulted in establishing diplomatic relations, reopening the Suez Canal, exchanging visits between the two sides, and opening "telephone" contacts. Will we get the same thing from the Syrians? The Golan is not Sinai. As you know, Sinai is a large expanse of desert, but the Golan is a vital area and a source of concern for us. I believe there are solutions, without saying what they are. The most important thing that made al-Sadat unique was the shock he gave us when he came and said: "We do not want more wars"; we want diplomatic relations. El Al (the Israeli Airline) will fly over our territory and the Canal will resume operations. When I first heard him say this, I thought I was dreaming, but he meant what he said. [passage omitted]

[Nafi'] What do you see as the solution to the settlements problem? Do you believe that removing the settlements is a possibility?

[Weizman] Once again, I could say yes or no. But these would be the wrong answers, because there is an Israeli presence in the West Bank and Gaza of which we are proud. What happened to the settlements in Sinai cannot be applied to the West Bank. If there is a precedent of returning to international borders, what are the international borders of the Palestinians? There are none. There is only the 1949 truce or cease-fire agreement marking unrecognized borders. Therefore, when we come to the settlements, we are bound to differ over their siting when the borders are delineated.

[Nafi'] Do you believe that King Husayn will sign a peace agreement during the tripartite talks between Warren Christopher, Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, and Shim'on Peres? Or will the king prefer to reach secondary agreements?

[Weizman] First of all, he will sign the agreement, God willing. But I cannot speak for him. He is an independent man. I have never met him, but I met Crown Prince Hasan during the Belgian king's funeral. Of course, I am not objective here. I believe that King Husayn has to take this step for the sake of Jordan. But I think that the big question is the extent of Syria's influence. If King Husayn cannot now sign a comprehensive peace treaty that includes establishing diplomatic relations and opening air and land routes, at least something must be achieved, such as an understanding on water and security issues. The important thing is that key figures from both sides will meet with a third party on our border with Jordan instead of going to Washington or even Cairo. The meeting will be held in the Ha'Arava, where the

temperature reaches 45 degrees and makes the blood boil. I am eagerly looking forward to this meeting and believe it will be a very important one, though I do not want to go too far in my expectations. What is certain is that something will result from this meeting, maybe a comprehensive peace; I do not know exactly. The situation with Jordan is not bad. I have been hoping that King Husayn will become involved in the whole process.

In any case, let us not forget that Camp David is the main model for a comprehensive peace in the Middle East. President al-Sadat wanted all parties to join in the process, but they did not at that time. That was a mistake.

[Nafi'] But is Israel ready to recognize Jordan's borders?

[Weizman] What are Jordan's borders?

[Nafi'] This thing in Ha'Arava.

[Weizman] Ha'Arava is an easy matter.

[Nafi'] And south of Lake Tiberias?

[Weizman] That is not bad. The future of the West Bank and the Jordanian borders is the major problem. [passage omitted]

[Nafi'] Is progress on the Jordanian track linked to progress on the others, especially the Syrian track?

[Weizman] The Syrians! I believe we all want to see progress on all tracks. But Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad—the president of a very important country with a strong army and air force—has to decide whether he wants to stay in the process or leave it. I hope he will not leave it, because in that case we will be able to solve Lebanon's problem. We hope to see the day when Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, and Iraq also participate in the process. There is nothing to prevent this from happening. [passage omitted]

[Nafi'] Do you intend to invite 'Arafat to visit Israel?

[Weizman] No. Not at this stage of the process. You have to understand the situation. With all due respect, he is the chairman of an organization and does not have a state. What will happen in the future must be discussed in the next three years. I am not avoiding this issue, but you should understand that we have a major domestic problem with the Israeli people. We are not a small country; our population has reached 4.3 million. There are different views and no consensus. Some believe there is a majority and others do not. I do not think the time is right for such an invitation. It is not a question of respect or lack of it. He is the PLO chairman and not a head of state, isn't he? [passage omitted]

[Nafi'] Are there fears that fighting will resume if a peace agreement is not reached with Syria?

[Weizman] I believe that one of the most important lessons of modern history is that no one wins in war. As for us, I do not believe that an Israeli Government will come along in the future and declare war on Syria. It is my view that there is a trend in today's world toward understanding, as happened in South Africa. This trend is a great change, greater than the expulsion of the British or King Faruq. We have lived with all the great changes. Late President 'Abd-al-Nasir was a great leader. This is why I believe that we and Syria are moving toward an understanding, because we fully realize that war will lead to our mutual defeat. [passage omitted]

Paper Says U.S. Ready To Play 'Real Role' in Talks

TA1907131494 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 19 Jul 94 p B1

[Editorial: "The Sponsor's Visit"]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's Middle East tour, which began with his visit to Israel yesterday, is crammed with working meetings and almost entirely devoid of courtesy affairs. His agenda includes meetings with Yitzhaq Rabin and Shim'on Peres and a sojourn to Damascus and Jordan, to be followed by the three-way meeting in the 'Arava and then back to Jerusalem and Jericho. His timetable shows that the peace process is high on the list of priorities of U.S. foreign policy.

We should not be deluded by the cordial ceremony, the exchange of greetings, and the diplomatic humor at 'En 'Avrona yesterday: The peace process is not yet self-propelled. Had it not been for the commitments made by the Americans to King Husayn, particularly with regard to easing Jordan's economic difficulties, it is doubtful that the ceremony or the historic meeting between Rabin and Husayn would take place. Yesterday's deliberations, as well as the planned summit, are only the beginning of exhausting negotiations which will require the involvement of the United States every step of the way and U.S. guarantees for any agreements signed in a treaty.

On the Syrian track, the United States has been an active mediator. In fact, it has been the only element equally acceptable to both sides. As long as the Syrians refuse to enter direct and practical negotiations on a peace agreement with Israel, the U.S. shuttle trips are the most important means of reaching an agreement on a mutually acceptable opening position. Furthermore, the United States is destined to play a key and active role in the security arrangements between Israel and Syria.

At the same time, the United States has not yet finished its role on the Palestinian track. The implementation of the Oslo, Washington, Paris, and Cairo agreements is still at its beginning and calls for the fulfillment of monetary promises given to the Palestinians. The donations have yet to arrive, and 'Arafat's pleas, as well as Rabin and Peres' recommendations, will not be enough if the United States does not do its share by spurring its allies to hurry up and fill the Palestinian coffers.

The dramatic turnabout in the peace process, the separate agreement with the Palestinians, and the emerging

accord with the Jordanians have actually done away with the Madrid format. There is no longer an interdependency between the partners to the negotiations, and parallel progress as a precondition for an agreement has been cast aside. It is increasingly becoming clear that there is no affinity of interests among all the Arab countries and that their individual motives occasionally vary. The role of the international sponsors of the process, especially Russia and the United States, has changed as a result. Although Russia supports the process, its ability to influence is hardly noticeable. The United States (which, as it usually does, decided it could not or did not want to crave peace more than the sides to the conflict and made do with offering accommodations and communications services for bilateral talks) has now accepted and is prepared to fulfill a real role. The President wants to get credit for an important foreign policy achievement, and the countries of the region have no other strategic partners at their disposal.

Even if the Americans have their own motives and the secretary of state's peace mission is designed for domestic needs no less than for the well-being of the region, the United States can do a lot of good at this stage of the contacts. Despite the criticism of his abilities and performance, Warren Christopher arrived here yesterday to offer the services of a friendly and capable superpower. A wise and flexible policy could largely benefit from those services.

Paper Says China Selling Missiles to Israel

NC1907163394 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 15 Jul 94 p 1

[Text] Diplomatic sources have told AL-SHA'B that Israeli Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq's visit to China two weeks ago resulted in the two sides reaching a special agreement under which China will give Israel modern Chinese missiles as part of a deal valued at more than $1 billion.

Information indicates that the missiles are of the modern type and will be added to the new Israeli missile system and subject to Israel's updating of its missile network.

IDF Officer Dies of Wounds Following Attack

TA1907122394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 19 Jul 94

[Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] officer who was wounded by terrorist gunfire near Rafah this morning has died of his injuries. His family has been notified.

'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam, the military arm of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], has assumed responsibility for the attack, claiming that it came in retaliation for what it described as the massacre at the Erez checkpoint on 17 July.

Hamas Admits Responsibility

JN1907193994 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 19 Jul 94

[Text] The martyr 'Izz-al-Din-al-Qassam Battalions of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, this morning issued a statement in which it admitted responsibility for the recent heroic attack [on an Israeli patrol].

The statement says: Following the terrible massacre committed by Rabin's soldiers near the Erez checkpoint, three of our fighters laid an armed ambush for a military pocket of the enemy on the Egyptian-Palestinian border this morning. The fighters rained bullets on the pocket, killing or wounding the members of the patrol. One of our strugglers then threw a handgrenade at the jeep before leaving the area safely for their bases.

The Zionist government must understand that the blood of our people is not cheap, and we pledge to use all our strength to preserve the dignity of our proud people.

King, Christopher Hold Talks, News Conference

JN2007102594 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1000 GMT 20 Ju 94

[Text] His majesty the king and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher held talks at the Hashemite Court in Amman today. The talks dealt with the Middle East peace process and his majesty's forthcoming meeting in Washington with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and U.S. President Bill Clinton scheduled to take place on the 25th of this month. The talks also dealt with the trilateral Jordanian-American-Israeli meeting.

At the end of the talks, his majesty the king and Mr. Christopher held a joint press conference. The full text of the press conference will be broadcast at the 2 PM [1100 GMT] news bulletin.

Meanwhile, Jordanian, American, and Israeli experts are holding unofficial talks at the Dead Sea ahead of the trilateral meeting between Premier al-Majali, Secretary Christopher, and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres due at 2 this afternoon.

The opening session will be broadcast live by Jordan radio and television.

Opposition Parties Against Talks with Israel

MM1907130594 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 17 Jul 94 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Jordanian Opposition Moves Against Negotiations, Observers Play Down Its Role"]

[Text] Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Various Jordanian partisan and political forces have moved to state their position on the Jordanian-Israeli negotiations, particularly after the announcement of the summit conference between King Husayn of Jordan and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, and with the start of the bilateral negotiations tomorrow.

In statements to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, several partisan sources said that the opposition forces have agreed on a number of peaceful steps starting with public meetings in various Jordanian areas to culminate in a general Jordanian national conference to oppose peace with Israel and lay the foundations of a unified Jordanian-Palestinian popular movement in Jordan.

'Azmi al-Khawaja, secretary general of the Popular Unity Party, said "we are about to form a Jordanian national body comprising economic and financial figures and trade and professional unions to resist having our national economy linked to the Israeli economy, defend the Palestinians' right to repatriation, and form special committees in the Palestinian camps in Jordan."

Taysir al-Zabadi, secretary general of the People's Democratic Party (Hashd) which is close to the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, said: It is now clear, without illusions, camouflage, or pretense, that the government has accepted the role assigned to it, this being to try and act separately while taking the Palestinian position as a tactical cover.

Meanwhile, the Jordanian Islamic Action Front [JIAF] has rejected the Jordanian-Israeli negotiation process, saying that the negotiations would lead to recognition of the Zionist usurpation as legitimate, which would in turn serve the Zionist colonialist designs. That came in a speech by Dr. Hamzah Mansur, member of the JIAF's Political Bureau, at the Jordanian University mosque in Amman the day before yesterday. According to several sources in Jordan, the opposition is unlikely to have a major influence on the negotiations with Israel, especially since most nationalist and leftist parties have been having organizational problems and continuous divisions for some time, which would make it difficult for them to put up an effective opposition to the government's policy.

Popular Discontent With Peace Talks Reported

JN1907122694 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic 18 Jul 94 p 1

[Unattributed article: "A Black July and Hot Jordanian Summer. Jordan Switches Its Priorities and Gives Precedence to Normalization Before Restoration of Land and Water"]

[Text] Spontaneously and without guidance or planning, Jordanian citizens are calling this month "black July." They do so in view of this month's accelerating political events, continuous surprises, and intensified meetings and negotiations with the Zionist enemy at the level of heads of technical teams, foreign ministers, and heads of states and governments, without any notable interruption.

Jordanians were shocked and vexed by Friday's news that a "summit meeting" has been arranged for King Husayn and Rabin under the patronage of Clinton in Washington on Monday.

While the parties and parliamentary blocs opposing a settlement continue their intensive consultations to reply to this surprise, AL-MAJD has learned that differences in opinion have emerged within the Council of Ministers and that some ministers have expressed their reservations toward the "miscalculated" thrust toward unilateral peace and normalization with the enemy before the border is demarcated and before the territories, water, and refugee rights are restored.

Many popular, party, and trade union figures refrained from supporting the accelerating Jordanian steps when the news media contacted them to extract a word of blessing or support.

AL-MAJD has also learned that the state organs have made several attempts to organize demonstrations or popular processions in support of the new political trend, but to no avail, despite all words of temptation or intimidation.

In spite of all claims that the opposition is entitled to freedom of speech and action, AL-MAJD can confirm that the opposition papers and parties have been kept under a martial-law atmosphere. They received many threats and warnings. They were told that opposition is legitimate as long as it is directed against the government policies, but will be prohibited in matters related to the higher political authority.

The Jordanian political and press arenas have been overtaken by a state of chaos and confusion. Facts got mixed with rumors, most of which spoke about the secret stay in Amman hotels of many Israeli media and political delegations. They also spoke about the striking of a Jordanian-Israeli-U.S. deal on the self-rule areas in Jordan [as published] and on securing Jordan's religious supervision of the Islamic holy places in Jerusalem.

While some deputies, queried by AL-MAJD, questioned Jordanian democracy—which, like the husband, is the last to know—an atmosphere of caution and anticipation prevailed in the financial, trade, and economic markets, causing stagnation and almost paralyzing them. Shopkeepers and merchants, who could find nothing to do, followed the news on Israel, London, and Monte Carlo radios.

One of AL-MAJD correspondents, who tried to monitor the popular mood toward the new policy, heard a sad citizen make a tragic statement when he said in the course of linking the acceleration of the peace process to the recent hike in coffee prices: "This is a miserable and depressing summer."

TIMES Reviews Wadi al-'Arabah Talks

JN2007081794 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 20 Jul 94 pp 1, 7

["From Nirmin Murad in Wadi al-'Arabah"]

[Text] Jordan and Israel on Tuesday [19 July] ended two days of historic peace talks in the region and announced that detailed and continuous negotiations on border and water issues would begin on Aug. 8 at sites near the Dead Sea.

A joint statement read out by Jordan's chief negotiator Fayiz al-Tarawinah at a press conference capping the negotiations listed a series of indicators of progress in talks in border, water and economic cooperation, but did not spell out any breakthrough.

Jordanian spokesman Marwan al-Mu'ashshir said Jordan was particularly satisfied with two major achievements—first an Israeli acknowledgement that Jordan does have a territorial claim and agreement to set up a sub-commission to prepare joint maps and documents on border documents, and, second, an Israeli acceptance that the Kingdom was entitled to a fair share of the waters of the Jordan and al-Yarmuk rivers.

"The most important progress was the agreement to concentrate on preparing joint maps and additional material that will help the conference.

"The other equally important progress is the agreement by both sides to abide by rightful allocation of both sides in the Jordan and al-Yarmuk rivers," Dr. al-Mu'ashshir added.

Both sentences were included in the joint statement without elaboration. Dr. al-Mu'ashshir would not elaborate but other sources agreed that the terminology of the statement on these two issues may have been "vague."

Elayaqim Rubenstein, head of the Israeli delegation, in comments after the joint statement was read, said that this statement of progress, which both sides initialled at the end of their two days of talks here, "reflects the wishes and concerns of both parties in a balanced way."

He said their negotiations aimed to "pave the way for the more important high-level meetings this week and next week."

The Jordanian and Israeli foreign ministers meet Wednesday in Jordan with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher. His Majesty King Husayn and Israel Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin are scheduled to meet in Washington on Monday.

The joint press conference was delayed by more than six hours as the two delegations wrangled inside an air conditioned tent under the scorching sun in the desert.

Sources close to the Jordanian side said Israel initially flatly refused to acknowledge any Jordanian claim to territory saying that the borders of the two countries were never marked in history and rejecting British mandate maps of 1928 as the term of reference.

The sources said problems had also developed in discussions about sharing scarce water resources.

"So far we did not tackle issues of boundaries ... we have been negotiating to create the mechanism tools that will help us both to cope with substantive matters," the head of the Israeli subcommission on borders, told reporters in response to a question on whether the two sides have reached a common understanding on the legal reference for these boundaries.

Dr. al-Tarawinah pointed out that the mandate agreements between Jordan and the British mandate authority in 1922 and 1928 "was spelt out in words" and not demarcated professionally.

The subcommission on border, Jordanian delegate 'Abdallah Tuqan said, will conduct "further analysis to determine the physical features and points that constitute the border points."

But he said that Jordan will not take Israel's security into account when negotiating the border issues. "The

Kingdom categorically rejects that security be regarded as a criteria in the border talks," he said. "It is completely out of it."

Delegates could be seen shuttling between the large tent housing the experts on borders, security and water and the smaller tent where the heads of the two delegations and their main advisors were making the final decisions.

Negotiators who spoke on condition of anonymity said that the Jordanians felt that the Israelis were "ignoring the facts," especially that Israel had already signed the common agenda which refers to the mandate line as the legal reference for these talks.

The agenda signed between the two sides June 7 in Washington talks for "settlement of territorial matters and agreed definitive delimitation and demarcation of the international boundary between Jordan and Israel with a reference to the definition under the mandate." [sentence as published]

If was evident as early as Monday's press conference that Mr. Rubenstein was stressing the Israeli argument when he responded to a question on Jordanian territorial rights by describing them as "territorial wishes."

This fundamental difference in approach was described by Jordanian negotiators here as an attempt by the Israeli side "to ignore the truth and bring us back to the zero point."

"The Israelis are claiming that topographic and geographic changes have occurred since the Israeli occupation and that since the mandate lines were not demarcated on the ground they could not be binding," one Jordanian delegate explained.

The delimitation lines of the mandate, according to experts, largely depend on the description of borders against specific landmarks in that area.

"Sometimes it would say that the border is two kilometres from a specific mountain or hill," a source explained adding that Israelis were claiming that the topographic and geographic landmarks themselves have changed and that this description was not enough.

The Jordanian side saw the Israelis as reversing an earlier commitment, when they signed the common agenda, to accept the description of the mandate documents written out in 1992.

Christopher Tour, Talks with Israel Viewed

JN2007090194 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 20 Jul 94 pp 1, 25

[Editorial: "Christopher's Prophesy and Israel's Intransigence"]

[Text] We can only but be optimistic concerning the statements of the U.S. peace sponsor Christopher in which he announced the good news that the conflict in the region is nearing an end, in spite of the Israeli intransigence that delayed the issuance of the joint communique on the negotiations in the tent.

Naturally, we cannot say that the talks were stalemated. Our chief negotiator Dr. Fayiz al-Tarawinah said at the news conference that the committees will resume meetings on 8 August to discuss all Jordanian-Israeli agenda items, topped by border demarcation and water.

Within this context, we say no one predicted that Israel would easily relinquish its blackmailing mentality while dealing with the Jordanian and Arab rights on all negotiations tracks. This is clear from Yitzhaq Rabin's statements yesterday on the difficulty of negotiations with Jordan due to the Jordanian opposition, and on the difficult negotiations on the Palestinian and Syrian tracks alike.

From the Jordanian point of view, it is logical to say that Rabin's statements are considered to be the right words, but with the wrong intentions. This was expressed by Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali during his meeting with Faruq Qaddumi, head of PLO Political Department, when he emphasized the constants of the Jordanian position, whether on land, water, or the Palestinian refugees' rights, or concerning Jordan's insistence to attain a just and comprehensive peace on all tracks.

Jordan, under its courageous Hashemite leadership and the backing of the one Jordanian family, believes in peace. Jordan deals with peace confidently and sincerely. We hope the tripartite U.S.-Jordanian-Israeli meeting at the Dead Sea Spa today will be able to put an end to the Israeli blackmailing mentality. We also hope Israel will abandon its continuous blackmailing and heed the peace requisites that are clearly stipulated in the terms of reference of the peace process, based on international legitimacy and the return of the usurped rights to their owners.

Finally, we hope that Christopher's prophesy, announced at the outset of his current shuttle tour, will come true. We are optimistic about this prophesy and the near end of the conflict. We also hope that this prophesy will have the chance to be realized on the ground at today's meeting.

PLO's Qaddumi Discusses Peace Talks With al-Majali

JN1907121194 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 19 Jul 94

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali received in his office in the Prime Ministry this morning Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department. Talal Sat'an al-Hasan, minister of state for foreign affairs, attended the meeting. Dr. al-Majali and Qaddumi reviewed the ongoing developments concerning the peace process, especially on the Jordanian-Israeli and the Palestinian-Israeli tracks.

Dr. al-Majali stated that Jordan believes in a comprehensive solution, even if tracks move at different speeds. He said that developments on the Jordanian-Israeli track will lead to Jordan's restoration of its water and territorial rights and to finding a solution to the refugee problem.

Qaddumi said that the PLO views coordination with Jordan as important as the transfer of the Palestinian authority from Tunis to the self-rule areas and the process of building the Palestinian National Authority. He said that the special Jordanian-Palestinian relations require coordination to be upgraded to an institutionalized level. He stressed that over two years after the convocation of the Madrid peace conference, the PLO believes that the developments on the Jordanian-Israeli track are a natural and acceptable outcome. He said that Jordan's restoration of its water and territorial rights is yet another step toward arriving at a just, comprehensive settlement, and gives Jordanians and Palestinians a chance to continue coordination, something which will achieve the joint interests of the two brotherly peoples.

The meeting was attended by 'Umar al-Khatib, the Palestinian charge d'affaires in Amman.

Attends Meeting With King Husayn

JN1907153494 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 19 Jul 94

[Text] At the Royal Hashemite Court today, His Majesty King Husayn received Mr. Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO's Political Department. The session was attended by Royal Court Chief al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir; Marwan al-Qasim, his majesty's political adviser; and the charge d'affaires at the Palestinian Embassy in Amman.

Urges Increased Coordination With Country

JN1907190494 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 19 Jul 94

[Interview with PLO's Political Department Chief Faruq Qaddumi by Salim 'Ali Dhiyab following his talks with King Husayn and Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali in Amman on 19 July—recorded]

[Text] [Qaddumi] Our discussions mainly addressed coordination and cooperation between the PLO and fraternal Jordan. This is crucial, especially in light of developments on the Palestinian and Jordanian tracks. Cooperation and coordination are not about rhetoric; cooperation must be formalized in institutions. The committees that we formed in the past to advance coordination must be reactivated; the next stage is one of construction and rehabilitation. We must work vigorously to reinforce the distinguished relations between the PLO and Jordan.

[Dhiyab] Many are unhappy with the status of the Jordanian-Palestinian coordination. Are you happy with the present level of coordination?

[Qaddumi] No, I am not. We are, therefore, doing our best to remove the obstacles hindering coordination and cooperation. I would like to see joint action rather than mere coordination. Toward that end, I will make every effort so that we may achieve what we want. The next stage and building the Palestinian National Authority obviously call for coordination. I will make every effort; I am determined and I mean what I say.

[Dhiyab] What's the delay in signing the economic agreement between Jordan and Palestine?

[Qaddumi] This is another matter of interest to me. If there are points of disagreement these can be ironed out. I do not see why this delay should be, unless if the reason is our move from Tunis to the Palestinian territories vacated by the Israeli enemy. Now, the agreement must be signed.

[Dhiyab] What do you think of the developments on the Jordanian-Israeli track?

[Qaddumi] Since the Arab parties agreed to the principle of a settlement and then went to Madrid, it is only natural to expect a breakthrough on all Arab tracks.

Hizballah Denies Link to Buenos Aires Bombing

NC2007135794 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 1345 GMT 20 Jul 94

[Text] A Hizballah official source in Beirut has denied any link between his party and the Buenos Aires bombing.

Meanwhile, the Iranian Embassy in Buenos Aires has condemned the bombing.

Al-Hirawi, Syria's Khaddam Discuss Peace Process

Hold Talks in Zahlah

NC1907132394 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1300 GMT 19 Jul 94

[Text] The talks between President Ilyas al-Hirawi and Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and his accompanying delegation ended at 1330 today in Zahlah. The talks dealt with the situation in the region and the stages completed in the peace process in light of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's tour of the region.

President al-Hirawi hosted a luncheon banquet in honor of the Syrian delegation.

Khaddam on Basic Conditions

NC1907170194 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 19 Jul 94

[Report by Ahmad 'Izz-al-Din from Zahlah]

[Text] Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam has emphasized the Syrian and Lebanese commitment to a just and comprehensive peace founded on international legality. He declared that the basic condition for peace is Israeli withdrawal to the borders of 4 June 1967 and implementing UN Security Council Resolution 425. Khaddam said that Syria and Lebanon have the same views on the need to continue cooperation between the two countries; boost the process of domestic peace and national accord in Lebanon; do everything possible to reinforce Lebanese national unity and reconciliation; and back the Lebanese Government as it faces external developments, particularly the negotiations and Israeli pressures.

Khaddam made these remarks as he was leaving President Ilyas al- Hirawi's home in Zahlah. He visited him at midday today to offer congratulations on the occasion of his Patron St. Ilyas Day.

Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri, Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri, and Deputy Prime Minister Michel al-Murr also attended the meeting on the Lebanese side. The Syrian delegation included Syrian Chief of Staff General Hikmat al-Shihabi; Major General Ibrahim Safi, commander of the Syrian forces in Lebanon; and Staff Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an, chief of Security and Reconnaissance in the Syrian forces operating in Lebanon.

The talks began at 1330 and at 1430 President al-Hirawi hosted a banquet in his guests' honor. Afterwards another meeting was held and discussions revolved around recent developments in Lebanon and the region. The meeting continued until 1715, after which Chamber of Deputies Speaker Birri, Prime Minister al-Hariri, and Syrian Vice President Khaddam left al-Hirawi's home.

[Begin recording] [Khaddam] This meeting was held on the occasion of his excellency the president's celebration of his patron saint's day. As you know, we visit his excellency every year to congratulate him on this occasion. We seized the opportunity to review the regional situation, the peace process, and future prospects. We also discussed some domestic Lebanese issues. Our views were identical on the need to continue cooperation, strengthen the process of domestic peace and reconciliation in Lebanon, do our utmost to strengthen national unity and accord, and back the Lebanese Government's position so that it can face external circumstances including the negotiations and Israeli pressures.

[Unidentified correspondent] Do you have any information on the meeting between his excellency President Hafiz al-Asad and Warren Christopher in Damascus?

[Khaddam] I was here and therefore I do not have any information on that.

[Correspondent] What are your impressions about Christopher's tour and the regional peace effort?

[Khaddam] When we learn what proposals Christopher is bringing, we will be able to state what our impressions are.

[Correspondent] What is your comment on the belief that the United States is focusing on the Jordanian and Palestinian negotiating tracks and therefore delaying the Syrian and Lebanese tracks?

[Khaddam] This matter concerns the United States. Where we are concerned, our position is clear. We want a just and comprehensive peace on the basis of, and within the framework of, international legality. A basic condition for peace is Israeli withdrawal to the borders of 4 June 1967 and, regarding Lebanon, implementing UN Security Council Resolution 425.

[Correspondent] What headline would you use for your meeting here today in Zahlah?

[Khaddam] This was a friendly visit to his excellency the president during which we discussed various issues of concern to Lebanon and Syria.

[Correspondents] Thank you. [end recording]

Al-Hirawi Reiterates Policy

NC2007065594 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 20 Jul 94

["Excerpt" of a speech by President Ilyas al-Hirawi on the occasion of the inauguration of a hospital in Zahlah on 19 July—recorded]

[Text] We are advocates of peace, and will continue on the course set at Madrid. But Lebanon will not sign a separate peace, neither today nor tomorrow. [applause] If others wish to sign, let them do so. As for us, we will only sign together with fraternal Syria. [applause]

Regarding the south, some international circles denounce us because there is resistance there. If one wants to liberate his land from occupation, does he not have a right to resist? Why did France recently celebrate the landing of Allied forces in Normandy? Who were those who welcomed the heads of state? Weren't they the French who resisted Hitler's occupation? Is resistance permitted there and not permitted here in Lebanon? Let Israel withdraw and the resistance will stop. [applause] Let Israel draw up a withdrawal timetable and the resistance will stop. Otherwise, the resistance will continue. Our decision is clear.

We have upheld solidarity with our Arab brothers and their decisions, but regrettably we have been accused of not being Arab. When we entered Arabism through its wide door, they exited through the windows and left Lebanon. [applause] We emerged from al-Ta'if full of love for each other and sure that gems would fall on Lebanon. But, regrettably, we have come to realize that one must only depend himself, and we must rebuild this beloved country and its infrastructure. Thank God, the process of development and reconstruction has begun.

Buwayz Rejects Moving Peace Talks From Washington

NC1907152094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1300 GMT 19 Jul 94

[Excerpt] Beirut, 19 Jul (MENA)—Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has ruled out his country's and Syria's agreement on any proposal to shift the peace talks on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks with Israel from Washington to any other location, whether it is in or around the Middle East, when these talks resume.

In a statement to MENA, he said that Lebanon is committed to what was agreed to in the Madrid conference and rejects any proposals or diplomatic pressure to shift the negotiations from Washington.

Buwayz's remarks came in response to reports that Israel and the United States intend to move the peace negotiations to a location in the Middle East, as is the case with the Jordanian-Israeli talks that are being held on the border of the two countries.

There were diplomatic reports circulating in the Lebanese capital about a U.S. proposal presented to the Lebanese Government through diplomatic channels that negotiations be held on the Lebanese-Israeli border and that Lebanon rejected the proposal. [passage omitted]

Human Rights Group Protests Death of Prisoners

NC1907204494 Paris AFP in English 1835 GMT 19 Jul 94

[Text] Beirut, July 19 (AFP)—The Lebanese Human Rights Association protested Tuesday [19 July] against the death of a prisoner during interrogation last week, four months after another prisoner was beaten to death.

Joseph Mughayzil, head of the association, said in a statement that he had been informed that there had been arrests following the death of a suspect during interrogation by anti-drugs officers.

Mughayzil, quoted by the official National News Agency, said there had been a sharp rise in human rights abuses in Lebanon.

"We receive numerous complaints against the (anti-drugs) bureau, where people have been arrested for days, even weeks, for interrogation, and some are subjected to all sorts of torture.

"Human rights abuses are multiplying. It is a serious development, because the state can not regain its authority if its services are not the first to respect the law."

In March a prisoner was beaten to death in Bayt-al-Din prison, in southeast Beirut. The prison chief and five officers have been arrested, according to press reports.

Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch Middle East and the International Federation of Human Rights Leagues have recently stepped up condemnation of worsening human rights abuses in Lebanon.

Shelling, Israeli Overflights Reported in South

NC1907174294 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 19 Jul 94

[Text] In the south, Jabal al-Rafi', the Nab' al-Tasah River basin, and Jisr Habbush came under Israeli artillery fire at dawn today. The Israelis dropped flares to light these areas and the surrounding hills and wadis. Helicopters also overflew these areas at a low altitude.

Israeli warplanes overflew the south three times this morning and afternoon. During their third sortie they carried out mock raids over al-Nabatiyah and Iqlim al-Tuffah.

The Lebanese Army confronted the Israeli planes with antiaircraft fire.

Christopher Remarks on Talks With al-Asad Reported

JN1907205394 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2015 GMT 19 Jul 94

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and his wife arrived in Damascus at 1030 on a visit to the Syrian Arab Republic. He was received at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and his wife, a number of senior Foreign Ministry officials, the Syrian ambassador in Washington, and the U.S. ambassador in Damascus.

In a statement to journalists accompanying him, Christopher asserted that the discussions he held with President Hafiz al-Asad today were useful and that Syria was very serious in achieving progress. Christopher reiterated U.S. hope that an agreement would be reached on the Syrian-Israeli track this year. Christopher announced that important changes have taken place since last May, referring to the establishment of the self-rule in Gaza and Jericho and to talks between Jordan and Israel. These two changes will lead to a peace treaty, as he put it. Christopher also stressed that it was very important to achieve progress on the Lebanese-Israeli track.

Further on Christopher-al-Asad Talks

JN2007060294 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 20 Jul 94

[Text] Last night at the People's Palace, His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher resumed the talks they began yesterday afternoon. The evening session was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', and Dennis Ross, U.S. coordinator for the Middle East peace process.

During the two meetings, they discussed the peace process, the ground it has covered thus far, and issues related to this process. Christopher reviewed the ideas and questions he was carrying.

For his part, his excellency the president reiterated Syria's desire to render the peace process, particularly on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks of negotiations, a success on the basis of the terms of reference governing it in order to achieve just and comprehensive peace in the region.

Christopher listened to Syria's ideas on how true progress can be made in the peace process to allow for the realization of the declared objective of this process.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher described his talks with His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad as very good and substantive.

In a statement to reporters last night at the end of the talks he held with His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, Christopher said: After three hours of talks, I feel more strongly that the parties concerned are very serious in the efforts they are making. The best indicator of the seriousness of the parties concerned is that I will return to Damascus Friday morning for further talks with His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad.

The U.S. secretary of state added: I can go further in my description of the talks. I can say that the talks were very valuable, and useful to the parties, given the seriousness that has marked them.

Asked about the Syrian-Israeli track of negotiations, Christopher said: The talks with His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad were very serious. The parties are serious in their handling of substantive issues. I do not want to delve into details of these issues. Nonetheless, generally, the means being used by the parties to achieve peace together are by themselves very good signs.

Christopher Departs

JN2007073594 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0715 GMT 20 Jul 94

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and his wife left Damascus at 0915 this morning at the end of a two-day visit to the Syrian Arab Republic.

He was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and his wife, a number of ranking Foreign Ministry officials, the Syrian ambassador in Washington, and the U.S. ambassador in Damascus.

Khaddam, al-Hirawi Discuss Christopher Tour

JN1907151194 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1415 GMT 19 Jul 94

[Text] Zahlah—Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi this afternoon received Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Lieutenant General Hikmat al-Shihabi, chief of the General Staff of the Army and Armed Forces. The meeting was attended by Nabih Birri, speaker of the Chamber of Deputies; Rafiq al-Hariri, prime minister; and Michel al-Murr, Lebanese deputy prime minister.

During the meeting, the conferees discussed relations between Syria and Lebanon within the framework of their common treaty of cooperation and coordination. They also discussed the developments in the peace process in light of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's current tour of the region.

Khaddam and his delegation congratulated the Lebanese president on the Patron Saint Ilyas Day, which falls today. The delegation accompanying Khaddam includes Lieutenant General Hikmat al-Shihabi, chief of the General Staff of the Army and Armed Forces; Major General Ibrahim Safi, commander of the Syrian forces operating in Lebanon; and Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an, chief of the security and reconnaissance [istitla'] agency in the Syrian Arab Forces operating in Lebanon.

The Lebanese president later held a luncheon in honor of Khaddam and his delegation, which was attended by Nabih Birri, Rafiq al-Hariri, and Michel al-Murr.

'Differences' in Jordan-Israeli Talks Cited

JN1907185594 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 19 Jul 94

[Excerpt] The Jordanian and Israeli sides today agreed to resume their bilateral negotiations on 8 August in 'En 'Avrona in the desert sector of Wadi al-'Arabah, provided another decision to this effect is made during the meeting between King Husayn and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin next Monday [25 Washington] in Washington.

The conclusion of the bilateral negotiations today between the Jordanian and Israeli delegations was delayed because of differences over the issue of water. The Israeli delegation rejected a Jordanian suggestion to discuss the water shares of the two sides.

A correspondent for London radio reported that the Israeli delegation concentrated on normalization and security arrangements, ignoring the issues of territories, waters, and environment proposed by Jordan. [passage omitted]

AL-BA'TH Stresses Adherence to 'Constants'

JN2007094094 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 20 Jul 94

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Syria Is For Just Peace," the newspaper TISHRIN says: Prior to his arrival in Damascus and his talks with His excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said he hoped that peace will be achieved, and spoke of new opportunities for a comprehensive regional settlement.

The paper indicates that Syria has always welcomed the U.S. Administration's efforts, and has repeatedly reiterated its adherence to the goal of achieving just and comprehensive peace. It has always demonstrated its eagerness to achieve an honorable and lasting solution in the region.

TISHRIN adds: Syria has consistently urged the U.S. Administration to play the role of a full partner and an honest broker to uphold international law and the terms of reference enshrined in the relevant UN Security Council resolutions, and translate the land-for-peace formula into a tangible reality.

The paper believes that Israel, from the convocation of the Madrid conference until the present date, has continued to disavow the relevant international legitimacy resolutions. Instead of subscribing to international resolutions, Israel has made a habit of raising security issues, overlooking the fact that just and comprehensive peace is the best guarantee of security in the region. Instead of going for comprehensive peace, it has promoted separate and partial deals and settlements, thus nullifying the terms of reference of the peace process, the bases of the Madrid conference, and the essence of the very U.S. peace initiative.

TISHRIN adds: Recent incidents in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank have clearly confirmed that Israel's lame agreements have failed to achieve peace. As a matter of fact, they have only exacerbated the conflict.

Concluding its commentary, TISHRIN affirms that Syria firmly believes that peace has its indispensable components, chief among which are complete Israeli withdrawal and the restoration of Arab rights. Syria will consider Israel as sincere in its desire for peace if it demonstrates a willingness for complete and total withdrawal. Moreover, Syria does not succumb to pressures or blackmail. It views separate deals as deliberate attempts to frustrate efforts to achieve just and comprehensive peace.

In a commentary under the headline "Consistent Israeli Evasion," the newspaper AL-BA'TH notes the statements Rabin made to the effect that there is a wide gap between the Israeli and Syrian positions, after the U.S. secretary of state left the occupied territories, as well as the Israel media's renewed efforts to promote separate solutions.

AL-BA'TH says: These fretful climates run counter to the optimism raised by the chief U.S. diplomat ahead of and during his current tour of the region.

The paper reviews the overall Israeli position from the convocation of the Madrid peace conference until the present day. The paper says the Rabin government has attempted to project the image of a moderate government that has come to the helm of power to replace the intransigent Shamir government, while it actually came to consummate the logjam plaguing the peace process.

AL-BA'TH adds Syria has ample evidence showing that it has never been an obstacle to peace, and that it has demonstrated commitment to the peace initiative from the outset. However, Israel has been evading this commitment. It has wagered on separate solutions. It is promoting the nullification of the Madrid formula at a time when the U.S. secretary of state is seeking to revive it as part of the U.S. Administration's commitment to achieve peace in the region.

AL-BA'TH concludes by saying: These Israeli statements are meant to place new obstacles in the way of the U.S. secretary of state's mission. Syria, which has reiterated its commitment to the peace process on the basis of its terms of reference, is not interested at all in separate solutions. It will continue to adhere its constants, which demand complete Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories.

The newspaper AL-THAWRAH addresses the same issue, saying: All the obstacles that have faced the peace

process are to be attributed to Israel's intransigent course, as well as its attempts to obstruct the peace process and scuttle the efforts to promote it. Israel is opposed to true peace.

AL-THAWRAH adds: For the past three years, Israel has continued to create obstacles and difficulties in the way of the efforts aimed at breaking the logjam plaguing the peace process. The statement Rabin made ahead of Christopher's tour to the effect that Israel will not effect complete withdrawal from the Golan at present provides further evidence regarding Israel's efforts to frustrate the peace process, and scuttle international and U.S. efforts to promote this process and open new horizons to allow it to achieve its objectives. In contrast, Syria has taken a highly positive and responsive stand toward the peace process. This stand is grounded in adherence to the indispensable components of peace, as enshrined in the relevant UN resolutions and the Madrid formula.

AL-THAWRAH concludes by saying: Thanks to this positive stand, Syria has created many opportunities, and boosted hopes regarding the achievement of peace. It has given rise to optimism over the possible enhancement of peace in the region. By contrast, Israel has dashed these hopes, thanks to its intransigent stand. This difference between the Syrian position and the Israeli position shows that the key to resolving the problem lies in making Israel abandon its illusions, and meet the requirements of peace.

In the "Opinion" column, TISHRIN says: In the aftermath of the massacre the occupation troops carried out at the entrance to Gaza Strip at dawn on Sunday, Israel has tightly sealed off the Gaza Strip and prevented the movement of people into or out of the strip. Gazans have been prevented from crossing into the Palestinian territories seized in 1948. This means that Gazans are being denied access to their jobs. They are being denied the chance to earn a living. Meanwhile, the occupation authorities have finalized measures that will prevent Jerusalem-based Palestinian institutions from carrying out any activities in occupied Jerusalem in order to facilitate the complete Judaization of the city, and consecrate it as the capital of Israel.

The recent incidents in Gaza, which is a self-rule area, and in Jerusalem, the discussion of whose status has been deferred to final status negotiations per the Gaza-Jericho accord, clearly underscore the serious Israeli designs against the occupied Palestinian territories. Likewise, these incidents highlight the seriousness of the self-rule accords struck between Israel and the PLO. One cannot dissociate the recent incidents that have taken place in Gaza Strip from the self-rule regime in Gaza, which is currently under an Israeli siege and which cannot discard Israeli hegemony, and what is currently taking place in Jerusalem and its surroundings. Therefore, it is impossible to make any predictions regarding the possible viability of the PLO-Israeli accords.

Press on Gaza 'Massacre,' Christopher's Mission

JN1807105894 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0450 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Press review]

[Text] TISHRIN comments on the new Israeli massacre in the Gaza Strip at the main crossing point that links the Gaza Strip with the 1948-occupied Palestinian territories. In this massacre, dozens of Palestinian civilians were either killed or injured.

TISHRIN says: The Gaza Strip's transformation into an open war zone between the sons of our people and the occupation troops because of the Erez incidents proves once again that Israel will not stop its terrorist and suppressive practices and will not abandon its policy of killing and the tightening of its iron fist and that it will not change its aggressive nature. This is corroborated by the fact that when confrontations were escalating in the Gaza Strip, Israel clamped a curfew on the West Bank cities, calling Ramallah and Hebron closed military zones.

The paper stresses that this shows that the Israeli occupation forces will not miss any opportunity, even if they themselves create this opportunity, to impose their control and military might over the occupied Arab territories.

No doubt, the Erez checkpoint massacre gives a true indication that the occupation authorities will not stop their series of crimes and suppressive practices and will increase their oppression. In doing so, they will not even honor the limited self-rule agreement that gave them control over crossing points, roads, and bridges and the right to prevent the entry and exit of Palestinian citizens through these crossing points by citing security pretexts. This is meant to protect their military forces and settlements and settlers and maintain their occupation of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

TISHRIN concludes: If the occupation remains this way, it will put the West Bank and Gaza Strip on top of a volcano and will create further tension, war, confrontations, and clashes. The only way to end the Israeli massacres is to remove the occupation completely.

In the "Opinion" column, TISHRIN comments on U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's tour of the region. It says: Israel, which was behind the failure of Christopher's previous tours, has not announced any new position that shows its goodwill and commitment to establishing a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

TISHRIN demanded that the U.S. Administration concentrate its efforts on bringing about a change in the intransigent Israeli position and asserting the constant principles of peace in the region. It is impossible to make any progress in the peace talks without Israel's full withdrawal from the Golan and southern Lebanon and the acknowledgment of Arab rights.

Under the headline "With the Beginning of Christopher's Tour," AL-BA'TH writes: With the beginning of Warren Christopher's fresh tour of the region, Washington has given indications, through the U.S. President himself, that the U.S. Administration is still determined to pursue its efforts to reach a comprehensive settlement in the region, stressing the importance of making progress on the Syrian track.

AL-BA'TH adds: Such official U.S. statements and assertions are supposed to motivate the concerned parties to show a response by reiterating commitment to the Madrid formula, that is, commitment to the implementation of the resolutions of international legitimacy and the land-for-peace principle.

The paper says Syria has repeatedly asserted its willingness to cooperate so as to achieve progress that would lead to a real breakthrough in the peace process to enable it to achieve its objectives; namely, to see the region enjoy security, stability, and peace. This is conditional, however, on absolute commitment to the implementation of the Madrid formula, which deems withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories a basic condition for the success of the peace process.

AL-BA'TH notes that despite the fact that three years have elapsed since the peace process started, the Israeli side has not changed its positions. Instead of receiving Christopher with positive stands to make the peace process succeed, Tel Aviv has received the U.S. secretary not only by continuing to refuse to implement the international resolutions but also by committing a new massacre in Gaza that killed or injured dozens of unarmed civilians.

The paper says the Gaza massacre proves beyond doubt that Israel is still pursuing a policy based on killing, destruction, displacement, and expansion, as well as preparing for launching more wars. The massacre also proves that all that Israel claims about peace is no more than talk.

AL-BA'TH concludes: Christopher has a very delicate mission represented in working to extricate the peace process from its current status because of Israeli positions. In other words, it is necessary for him to return the peace process to its right track. This means working to force Israel to implement the resolutions of international legitimacy. This is sine qua non if there is to be peace and a comprehensive settlement.

In "With the Events" column, AL-BA'TH says partial, separate solutions do not make true peace. Past events have substantiated this. If Israel truly wants peace, all it has to do is implement Security Council resolutions to the letter without maneuvering or deception. Then, peace will be achieved.

Afghanistan

Supreme Council Warns India on Interference

BK1807123594 Karachi DAWN in English 15 Jul 94 p 7

[Report by A.S. Yousufi]

[Text] Peshawar, July 14—The Supreme Coordination Council of Afghanistan has appreciated the efforts of the United Nations Secretary-General and the Secretary General of OIC [Islamic Conference Organization] for a peaceful settlement of the Afghan crisis.

The chairman of the information committee, Mr. Qareebur Rehman Saeed, said on Thursday that the council could agree to any proposal that ensured the objectives of the formation of a provisional government through negotiations and whose ministers were acceptable to all parties and groups. They would also not be entitled to contest elections. He said the proposals should also ensure that such proposals should include a permanent cease-fire disarmament of Kabul and expulsion of all heavy arms and armed groups from the cities formation of a national army and the delivery of heavy weaponry to the national army; and holding of general elections before coming winter.

He said while the council appreciated the roles of the United Nations and the OIC, it called upon the Russian federation to stop the illegal printing of the Afghan currency for the use by the Rabbani side and the OIC should be able to convince Saudi Arabia to stop assistance to Rabbani which fuelled the war in Afghanistan.

Meanwhile, a Kabul commanders communique released through Press here on Thursday says that in order to prolong war, Indian government was extending military, food and economic assistance to the Rabbani regime. It said they had sent pilots, aircraft spares to Kabul and maintained a team of technicians to overhaul military planes which were being used for wanton bombardment on the civilian population.

The communique warned India to desist from these illegal operations in Afghanistan, and if it did not stop the Mojahedin of Afghnistan would offer full military support to their Kashmiri brethren. In that case, it said the Mojahedin of Afghanistan would send a great number of well trained Mojahedin to liberate Kashmir from Indian rule.

Moscow, Delhi Said Supplying Arms to Rabbani

BK1907102294 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 16 Jul 94 p 1

[Report by Qaiser Butt]

[Text] The supply of military aid to the Afghan President Prof. Borhanoddin Rabbani from India is on the increase posing serious threat to the multi prong diplomatic efforts for the restoration of peace in Afghanistan, diplomatic and military experts said in Peshawar on Friday.

These sources said that both Delhi and Moscow have joined hands to supply heavy arms and ammunitions to President Rabbani against his rivals particularly Prime Minister Eng. [Engineer] Golboddin Hekmatyar and 'Abdol Rashid Dostam. Besides the supply of arms and ammunitions Indian military advisors have also arrived in Kabul to help President Rabbani in his arms build-up.

It is learnt that over 20 Indian technical experts have been assigned to repair Soviet made MiG-21 and gunship helicopters at Bagram airport. Indian technicians, about 45 to 50 in number, are looking after Soviet made tanks and artillery guns in Kabul. Indian inspectors are also helping in raising a regular army for President Rabbani.

The sources said that the Indian military experts and inspectors have established their offices at the Kabul garrison.

The airport of Jalalabad is also being used by the Indian cargo flights carrying arms and ammunition. The sources quoted eye witnesses as saying that they saw Indian cargo planes landing at the Jalalabad airport on 15, 21, and 27 last month. There were 1 to 3 cargo planes landing at the Jalalabad air base every day during the period, the eye witnesses were further quoted by the sources.

The sources said that all those cargo planes that landed at Jalalabad air base during the month of June brought spare parts for the Soviet made fighters and tanks. One such cargo plane was surrounded by a commander of Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party] but it was allowed to fly to Bagram due to the political and military pressure by group of armed persons belonging to the Hezb-e Eslami, Khalis group. The supply of spare parts for the Soviet made war machine from India to Afghanistan started in the mid of May this year. Initially the official airlines of Afghanistan, Aryana, was used for the supply of arms and ammunitions from India for President Borhanoddin Rabbani.

The intelligence sources said that the hobnobbing between President Borhanoddin Rabbani and Delhi began last year which resulted in the supply of military aid to Rabbani in December 1993. Pakistan has information that over 150 persons belonging to President Rabbani's forces were sent to Delhi in December last year for special war training.

According to the intelligence sources the communist leaders of Afghanistan who joined the government of President Rabbani through Commander Ahmed Shah Mas'ud after the downfall of last communist Afghan ruler Gen. Najibollah played the key role to establish Delhi-Moscow-Rabbani network to operate against Islamabad and anti-Rabbani force in Afghanistan. The

constant supply of Afghan currency from Moscow to President Rabbani was also the result of this alliance, the sources further said.

It may be recalled that Afghans under a mutual agreement between the then Soviet Union and Afghanistan the Afghan currency is being printed in Moscow. Afghan Prime Minister, Hekmatyar, has been opposed to the printing of Afghan currency in Moscow as he is of the firm belief that the Russians are helping his rivals, President Rabbani against him with this money.

The independent sources believe that the refusal on the part of President Rabbani to allow the former Afghan president Gen. Najibollah to leave Afghanistan is also the result of those former comrades of Najibollah who have joined the Rabbani camp.

It is learn that Hekmatyar had the knowledge of the Indo-Moscow hobnobbing with Rabbani and his decision to launch new-year offensive to topple Rabbani government this year was aimed to counter this "unholy alliance".

Official Explains Election Law for Grand Shura

LD1507223494 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1620 GMT 15 Jul 94

[Excerpts] Dear listeners of Radio Afghanistan: As you know, the law on the election procedure for the grand Islamic Shura was explained yesterday by esteemed Dr. 'Abdol Hai Alahi, secretary to the Joint Reconciliation Association of Afghanistan, and he answered questions from journalists. May we draw your attention to this press conference:

[Begin Alahi recording] Pursuing logical plans for the restoration of peace and in order to set up a new political system in Afghanistan we have succeeded in arriving at some conclusions with the cooperation of friends and brothers. [passage omitted]

Several volunteer groups took the initiative to devise reconciliation programs [words indistinct]. These groups were all self-motivated and were not instigated from any quarter. They come from various strata of our society. All these peace-seeking groups are being organized in a joint association. From among all these groups only one delegation represents the government while the other 15 are independent and nongovernmental delegations.

The joint association succeeded in unifying all programs for peace. A unified draft was worked out. This unified draft observes Islamic teachings and the principles of international law. Attention was also paid to praiseworthy national and historic traditions. [passage omitted]

For the convocation of a Grand Islamic National Shura a detailed law has been drafted. We are now talking about this law. Because the whole text of the law is detailed, we will read out to you a summary of this law in two pages. Here is the summary of the above law:

1. According to the lofty teachings of Islam and the accepted principles of international politics only nations have the right to determine their political fate and to choose their state leaders. Under the present circumstances, the Afghan nation enjoys such a right. Therefore, the political system and the head of state of Afghanistan must be elected by the people.

2. As the convocation of a general election is difficult and also the method of appointing delegates is an unjust procedure, the convocation of a broad Shura representing the will of the people in a semi-elected form will be the most logical and practical method for giving the people the right to determine the political fate of the country. Hence the people will elect the members of the Grand Islamic National Shura of Afghanistan in constituencies not directly but through their district's learned and elite.

3. The envisaged composition of the Shura is aimed at permitting delegates to come to the Shura from various strata of society in particular from the informed and learned circles.

4. The planning and convocation association is the starting point for gathering and electing delegates to the Grand Shura. The planning and convocation association will be set up from among the credible and well-known reconciliation delegations, representatives from the jehadi formations, a number of learned personalities, and provincial representatives. The nature of the above association will be defined in the reconciliation gathering of Herat. That is to say, the composition of the association which will convene the Grand Shura and which will invite the Grand Shura may be finalised in the Herat session.

5. A central election commission is necessary for planning and organizing elections for the Grand Shura. This commission, which will be independent, will assign election commissions to all provinces. The provincial commission will dispatch delegations to the districts. The election law specifies the duties and authorities of the election commissions at various levels—at the district and provincial levels.

6. In order to consider complaints, judicial commissions with [word indistinct] duties and specific authorities will be dispatched to districts from provincial capitals. The composition, duties, and authorities of these commissions have been explained in detail in [words indistinct].

7. If possible, delegations from the Islamic Conference Organization and the United Nations will also be invited to supervise the elections at central and provincial levels.

8. Special formalities are envisaged for announcing the date of elections, registration of names, etc.

9. The people's delegates will be elected by a gathering of the elite. (?Electors) will be formed from the district Jehadi Shura, commanders of the largest military units, principals of religious schools, principals of other

schools, and Friday imams. The above nucleus will select one clearsighted person from among the ulema, elders, military people of the jehad era, and educated people for every 1,000 persons. [passage indistinct]

10. In electing the delegates, the existing administrative boundaries and population proportions will be considered. [passage indistinct]

11. The method of convening sessions and the duties, authorities, and responsibilities of the Grand National Islamic Loya Jerga of Afghanistan [as heard] will be specified by separate regulations.

That was a summary of the election law presented to you. Of course, the text of the law is more detailed. If you have any question, please raise them. [passage omitted] [end recording]

UN Decision To Open Jalalabad Office Criticized

LD1907215094 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 19 Jul 94

[Unattributed Bakhtar Information Agency commentary]

[Text] UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali recently said the United Nations was planning to open a political office to assist in finding a solution to the Afghan issue. For now an office will open in Jalalabad until the fighting stops in Kabul. The political commentator of the Bakhtar Information Agency writes the following concerning this issue:

The UN secretary general's recent decision to open a political office in Afghanistan establishes the fact that this organization is unable to play a role as a peace broker from a remote place. The decision to open an office in Jalalabad, not in Kabul, is an unrealistic action. Kabul is the capital of Afghanistan. None of the groups inside Afghanistan has questioned Kabul as being the capital of Afghanistan. This means that the United Nations and other foreign countries' agencies must be in Kabul. It should be mentioned that such action damages the national unity of Afghanistan and creates more difficulties for a country that already has enough problems.

We have seen, for example, that tendency on the part of some countries to have close relations with Dostam caused Dostam (?to distance) himself from the central government and to mutiny against the central state.

The statement by the foreign minister of Pakistan saying that this country intends to open a consulate in a province of Afghanistan demonstrates again the foreign tendency to cut deals with local groups. Despite the fact that the United Nations has no such intention, opening an office in Jalalabad may plant the idea in the head of local leaders to think of themselves as independent from the central state. Such an action damages the national unity of Afghanistan.

The opening of a UN office in a province, on the other hand, could cause other local leaders to develop similar ambitions. No doubt the United Nations is working for the establishment of peace and national unity in Afghanistan, hence it should not take any action that may damage the national unity.

The Afghans believe in the UN role to bring peace and to construct Afghanistan, although there is a diversity of opinion regarding UN actions [words indistinct].

Withdrawal of UN officials from Kabul in the spring of 1991 was a panic action. Since that time the UN officials have been living in Pakistan and occasionally they pay a one-day visit to Afghanistan. An active presence of the United Nations in Kabul, the capital of Afghanistan, is essential for the restoration of peace and for preventing further deterioration of the situation. [Words indistinct] life is not impossible in Kabul as the UN officials say. [Word indistinct] that living in Pakistan is easier, however these officials are being paid for working in Afghanistan and they must have permanent presence in the area. UN officials can hold talks with various groups and declare the area where the UN office is located as a demilitarized zone. Afghanistan is prepared for full cooperation in this respect. If the opposition do not fire at Kabul airport, the UN officials can make use of the airport.

The practice of the Red Cross can be an example for the United Nations. Despite all difficulties the Red Cross did not run away from the scene and has accomplished the humanitarian duty with [word indistinct]. This organization succeeded in (?assisting) all sides engaged in the fighting.

We believe that the United Nations should open its office in Kabul because the opening of a UN political office in one of the provinces will damage the foundation of our national unity. It will encourage separatist tendencies. The mistakes of the neighboring countries in establishing relations with local forces (?cannot be tolerated) [words indistinct].

The Islamic State of Afghanistan, in consideration of the [word indistinct] cannot agree with such plans. Because such plans will cause more problems in the future. The duty of the state is to safeguard the national unity of Afghanistan in addition to working for the restoration of peace and struggling against tendencies of separation from the capital, which are surely in the interest of foreigners.

Air Force Bombs Mazar-e Sharif Airport

LD1907173094 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 19 Jul 94

[Text] Aircraft of the country's Air Force delivered crushing air attacks on the installations of the Mazar-e Sharif Airport yesterday. [Words indistinct] told BAKHTAR that the airport and military installations of Mazar-e Sharif Airport were attacked yesterday by the

country's Air Force. A jet belonging to the Dostam militia was hit and caught fire while attempting to take off. The pilot was killed. A large number of militiamen were killed and the airport military installations suffered heavy damage.

Rocket Attack on Kabul Kills 2, Injures 10

LD1907173394 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 19 Jul 94

[Text] The Golboddin-Dostam militias have martyred two Kabul citizens during the past 24 hours by blindly firing rockets. The Kabul garrison told BAKHTAR that since yesterday evening, the Golboddin-Dostam militias have fired 26 rockets at residential areas of Kabul. Two defenseless citizens were martyred and another 10 were injured. The savage attacks by the militias also caused material losses in addition to the loss of life.

India

Press Release Issued on Visit of PRC's Qian

BK1907141294 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 0851 GMT 19 Jul 94

[Press Release dated 18 Jul 94]

[Text] His Excellency Mr. Qian Qichen, vice-premier and foreign minister of the People's Republic of China is visiting India from July 17-19, 1994 at the invitation of the government of India. Earlier today (July 18), Vice Premier and Foreign Minister Qian called on the president, Mr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, and on the prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao. He also had meetings with the commerce minister, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee; the finance minister, Mr. Manmohan Singh; the minister of state for external affairs, Mr. R.L. Bhatia; and the minister of state in the prime minister's office, Mr. Bhuvanesh Chaturvedi.

Discussions during the visit covered a wide range of issues including improvement and consolidation of bilateral relations, implementation of the border peace and tranquillity agreement signed during prime minister's visit to China in September, 1993, further development of trade, economic and the other ties, the international situation, and India-China cooperation in multilateral and the international fora.

During his call on the president, the president said that the two biggest Asian countries should work together for world peace and international cooperation. Vice-Premier Qian agreed and expressed his admiration for India's progress during Prime Minister Narasimha Rao's tenure and said the prime minister's visit to China in September, 1993 has pushed bilateral ties to new levels.

During discussions on bilateral relations, both sides felt that the process of continuous improvement of India-China relations should continue, while differences are gradually resolved the development of economic and trade linkages would contribute meaningfully to this process. Both sides stressed the importance of implementation of the border peace and tranquillity agreement signed during the prime minister's visit to China in September, 1993. Vice Premier Qian said that the prime minister's visit had made progress on the boundary question, building upon the basis laid during the late prime minister, Rajiv Gandhi's, visit to China in 1988.

In his discussions with the finance minister and the commerce minister, Mr. Qian stressed the Chinese side's desire to work towards strengthening economic and commercial relations between the two countries, and for direct contacts between business enterprises which could lead to identification of new joint ventures and opportunities for economic cooperation.

During the meeting with the finance minister, it was agreed to enhance cooperation in the banking sector and to promote cooperation in the iron and steel sector. The finance minister, Mr. Manmohan Singh and the Chinese foreign minister also signed an agreement on the avoidance of double taxation. The agreement is expected to contribute towards the development of economic ties between the two countries and is expected to enhance investment by enterprises of each country in the other.

During the call on Mr. Qian by Mr. R.L. Bhatia, minister of state for external affairs briefed Mr. Qian on Pakistan's continued rejection of dialogue with India and attempts to internationalize the Kashmir question. Mr. Qian reiterated the Chinese view that the Kashmir question should be resolved by patient dialogue between the parties concerned, namely, India and Pakistan.

Appointment of New U.S. Envoy Viewed

BK1707064794 Delhi THE ECONOMIC TIMES in English 10 Jul 94 p 5

["Profile" column by Reshmi R. Dasgupta]

[Text] Ever since it was announced on 19 March this year that Indophile Stephen J. Solarz was not coming to India as the next ambassador of the United States, there was some trepidation about whom President Bill Clinton would finally choose to occupy Roosevelt House in New Delhi. The job was not going to be easy, with a growing swell of anti-Americanism threatening to dampen the booming globalisation drive. While Solarz' obvious pro-Indian leanings may have helped to smoothen ruffled feathers, clearly American objectives for the region needed a tough talker.

The name that came up was that of 56-year-old career diplomat Frank George Wisner, with a record of being a trouble-shooter of sorts. That fact, coupled with Clinton's reported eagerness for a Asia-Pacific security pact, encompassing the issue of nuclear nonproliferation, made the choice of Wisner for India somewhat

inevitable. And since the confirmation of his appointment and his 'swearing in' as ambassador to India, Wisner has made it clear that he is not going to waste his time getting on the job.

A series of pronouncements on what was on the agenda have emanated from Washington even before the envoy has reached New Delhi. First the US announced it was not going to take action against India under Special 301 opting instead for negotiations or tightening up of Indian laws on intellectual property rights. Then came Wisner's own remarks.

The tenor of comments like "US would like India and Pakistan to settle the Kashmir dispute through bilateral discussions, taking into account the wishes of the Kashmiri people", and that India "must see to her defence and no American questions that now, nor ever had, nor ever will" did sound markedly different from Wisner's earlier statements, particularly on the Prithvi missile. At that time he had urged India to "consider what the consequences would be if they deployed the Prithvi missile" and reiterated that "the grounds of understanding should be reached so that its (India's) military preparedness does not appear to threaten the man next door."

By themselves, Wisner's words seemed innocuous enough. But they did sound inconsistent coming from a man who was reportedly a prime supporter of both the deal to supply 38 F-16 fighter aircraft to Pakistan this year, and an earlier arrangement to sell 72 F-15s to Saudi Arabia a year after the Gulf war. Conflicting statements, of course, could just be a reflection of changing US concerns, or even because he could have been speaking earlier as the under secretary of state for defence policy, and then as the envoy-designate to India. And quiet diplomacy certainly seems a better bet right now.

Curiously, Wisner's postings at a senior level have most always coincided with a crisis in the US's relations with that particular country—ambassador to the Philippines during the controversy over US bases there, five years heading the mission in Cairo, from 1986 to 1991, during the final days of the Iran-Iraq war, the Gulf War and the crucial phase in the relations between Israel and Egypt—besides stints as envoy to Zambia and deputy assistant secretary for African affairs from 1982-86.

That would be of a piece with Wisner coming to India, given the number of knotty issues to be sorted out. The list ranges from NPT [Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty] to trade barriers, and from intellectual property rights to human rights, quite a plateful, even for a reputed workaholic like Wisner.

And as with any representative of the US, rumours are rife. Some have hinted at his alleged connections with the CIA, as his father was associated with the strategic services; others have said this posting is a demotion, part of defence secretary William Perry's overhaul of the Pentagon.

But that just goes to show this Princeton graduate's ability to steer through troubled waters. For India, warts and all, will be a chance for Wisner to prove his mettle to all nay sayers in the State Department and elsewhere.

Slovak Aid Said Sought To Modernize Tanks

BK1707092194 Delhi NAVBHARAT TIMES in Hindi 13 Jul 94 p 12

[Report by Ranjit Kumar]

[Text] New Delhi 12 July. Modernization of the Army's T-72 tanks is under consideration. The Defense Ministry has taken a decision to this effect in principle and talks are on with manufacturers in the Slovak Republic. The Slovak Republic has developed the newest, most advanced T-72 Mark-2 tanks. The Mark-2 is the first modernized form of the T-72 tank in the world. It is worth mentioning that the plant set up to manufacture T-72 tanks was established in Avadi near Madras with the help of the former Soviet Union. This plant started production in 1987. If a decision is taken to modernize the T-72 tanks on the basis of the Mark-2 design, it is possible that the production of modern Mark-2 tanks will be taken up at the Avadi Plant.

According to reliable sources at the Defense Ministry, due to inordinate delay in the indigenous production of the main battle tank Arjun, the Army has decided to modernize its T-72 tanks. Twelve prototypes of Arjun have been developed and the Army has carried out extensive tests on them, but the problems caused in its engine due to the desert heat are yet to be dealt with. That is why its design is yet to be finalized, as a result of which the production of Arjun might take a few more years.

As the Pakistan Army is equipped with the world's most advanced U.S.-made Abrams tanks, India wanted to induct Arjun tanks to counter this threat. However, it might take 8 to 10 years to induct Arjun tanks into the Indian Army, and that is why a decision has been taken to provide the Army with the modernized type of T-72 tanks to put its strategic capability on par with the best tank regiments of the Pakistan Army. The Pakistan Army has about 100 Abrams tanks. These tanks were given to Pakistan in the latter half of the last decade on the pretext of a situation arising out of the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan. Although the Indian Army was told that two tank regiments with 65 Arjun tanks would be raised by 1996, this is not possible now in view of the difficulties faced by the Arjun tanks. Army Chief B.C. Joshi has however announced the intention to induct Arjun tanks into the Army.

Mallikarjun, minister of state for defense, went to the Slovak Republic on 1 June to hold talks on the modernization of the T-72 tanks. The advanced T-72 Mark-2 is equipped with the latest artillery system and special target search system. This system, called Spectrometer, also determines the speed of the moving target. The minister of state for defense also visited the 155-mm

howitzer manufacturing plant. It is known that the Indian Army is trying to mount 155-mm self-propelled artillery guns on its T-72 tanks. Negotiations are also on with the Vickers Company of Britain for this purpose, but the Army in the meantime has started looking into other options. The Slovak prime minister's statement confirms that Indian military experts are studying the Slovak defense systems. The Slovak Republic has been carved out as a newly independent country from erstwhile Czechoslovakia, which was a member country of the Soviet camp Warsaw Pact. Talks on this subject were held during the Slovak prime minister's two-day visit to India last week. Slovak Defense Minister Pavel Kanis was an important member of the Slovak goodwill delegation led by the Prime Minister Josef Moravcik. Pavel Kanis held further talks with Minister of State for Defense Mallikarjun.

The Slovak prime minister told newsmen in Delhi last week that India and the Slovak Republic could set up joint ventures in the defense field to supply arms to third countries. During his talks he referred to the T-72 Mark-2 tanks developed by the Slovak DZS company and claimed that this tank is among the best in the world. It is being said about the Slovak prime minister's visit to India that he came only to search out markets for his country's weapons. He also stated that the Slovak arms plants were shut down immediately after the Slovak Republic came into being, but later it was felt that the capabilities of these plants could be utilized by creating new markets in cooperation with countries like India by setting up joint ventures to sell weapons to third countries. In this perspective, speculations are rife in the Defense Ministry about the prospects for India's new defense ties with the Slovak Republic.

The Indian Army has now 1,100 T-72 tanks. Other than these, it also has 2,200 Vijayanta tanks and 750 T-54 tanks. According to knowledgeable sources, the Indian Defense Ministry had planned to replace the Vijayanta and T-54 tanks with 1,500 to 2,000 Arjun main battle tanks within the next decade, but it now appears that it is essential to modernize the T-72 tanks due to the inordinate delay in the Arjun production program.

U.S. Tourist Said Killed by 'Militants'

BK2007100494 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0435 GMT 20 Jul 94

[Text] In Srinagar, a bullet-riddled body of an American tourist was recovered by the police from Habbakadal locality yesterday. The tourist was identified from his driving license as 33-year-old (Stephen Paul Austerley Obuka). He had been shot from close range. A special team has been set up to investigate the killing. Preliminary findings indicate that the American tourist was killed by the militants.

Pakistani Intelligence Said Linked to Bombing

BK1707093694 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 17 Jul 94

[Text] The Jammu and Kashmir police has got positive clues that yesterday's bomb blast in the minibus near Jammu was the handiwork of Pakistan's ISI [Inter Services Intelligence] and was executed through the Punjab militants.

[Hong Kong AFP in English at 0424 GMT on 17 July, in a New Delhi-datelined item, adds: "A Muslim guerrilla group in Kashmir has admitted responsibility for a bomb blast which killed six people on a bus, saying it was a warning to Hindu pilgrims to stay away from the Himalayan state. The Jamiatul Mujahideen said in a statement that it had carried out Saturday's blast in Jammu as a 'warning to the pilgrims intending to visit the Amarnath shrine in south Kashmir next month,' press reports here said Sunday."]

Suspects Killed by Police

BK1807093994 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, two Punjab militants suspected to be behind the bomb blast in a minibus on Saturday [July 16] near Jammu were killed in an encounter with the state police this morning. The encounter took place in the (Trikutanagar) locality of Jammu city. The militants were also suspected to be involved in the recent killing of the Jammu and Kashmir Akali Dal-Mann leader, Mr. Harnam Singh. They were identified as Santosh Singh and Narbir Singh, belonging to Nabha and Patiala in Punjab. The inspector general of police, Mr. A.K. Suri, told out Jammu correspondent that the militants were also wanted by the Punjab police in several cases of killings in the state. Mr. Suri said some arms and ammunition were recovered after the encounter.

Changing Strategy of Pakistan's ISI Viewed

BK1107012594 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 8 Jul 94 p 7

[Report by Ashok Vyas—all quotation marks as published]

[Text] Gandhinagar, July 7—Inter Services Intelligence (ISI) of Pakistan seems to be changing strategy and is helping set up organisations in different parts of the country with the sole purpose of creating chaos, bad blood between the Hindus and Muslims and indulging in disinformation.

The organisations are apparently being set up in such a manner and which are scattered in different parts of the country so that if one got exposed its links could not be traced back to other organisations.

Of these the most sinister one is perhaps "Kafla-e-Sakht Jan' (caravan of hard and able bodied men) which has

been set up by the Students Islamic Movement of India (SIMI) whose links with ISI were exposed by some of the terrorists who were arrested last year and year before.

According to information, the main task given to "Kafla-e-Sakh Jan" is to counter what its creators describe as "anti-Islamic Force." According to these sources, the organisation has come into existance in Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh Madhya Pradesh, Delhi and possibly in Rajasthan and Maharashtra.

Apart from countering the "anti Islamic forces" the other task reportedly given to it is that it is to jump into fray whenever or wherever there is communal violence.

Highly motivated youths are reportedly being recruited and they are being trained in the use of arms including modern sophisticated arms and given gorilla [as published] type training. They are being indoctrinated in the glory of Islam and are being told that they should be prepared to lay down their lives for the cause of Islam and to safeguard Islam. One source said that suicide squads too are being created.

One source said that setting up of an organisation like "Kafla-e-Sakhl Jan" was apparently an answer to "Durga Vahmi" set-up by Sadhvi Ritambara and Bairang Dal set-up by Vishwa Hindu Parishad. [sentence as published] Members of "Durga Vahini" and Bajrang Dal too are given training in use of arms.

With the formation of such type of organisation, bodies like Students Islamic Organisation and Adam Sena set up by a moderate Jamat-e-Islam Hind has been sidetracked and pushed into background. Fundamentalists are taking over.

Another new organisation whose existance has come to the notice of the authorities in Gujarat is "Inqalabi Islam Ayyatollah". This organisation is apparently engaged in propaganda and disinformation. Some pamphlets issued by this organisation not only exhort the Muslims be prepared but also exhorts the Harijans and Adivasis to embrace Islam "if they wanted to get away from the clutches and insults of the high caste Hindus as Islam is a casteless and creedless society where everyone was equal."

This Inqalabi Islam Ayyotollah" is also apparently engaged in disinformation as some of the pamphlets distributed by it are not only inflamatory in nature but also give a high exaggerated the distorted version of any incident involving Muslims.

Another organisation which has come to the notice is "Harqatul Jahade Islam" in Gujarat and Punjab. Not much is known about this organisation but the little which has come to the light it seems to have been given the task of uniting the anti-national forces in these two States. Also it had reportedly set up links with the anti-social elements.

The return of normalcy in Punjab has been the biggest setback for ISI. As such it has apparently launched an all out effort to regain some of the lost ground and this organisation which has headquarters in Punjab could well be engaged in making an attempt to regroup the residual terrorists in Punjab and also open links with the anti- social elements.

Apart from this, ISI seem to have started sending in foreign mercenaries into Gujarat too as it has done in Kashmir. Indication of this come from experience of a youth (who does not want to be identified) in Bhuja few weeks back.

This youth who is tall, fair and well built had picked up a few Arabic words, specially the salutation and its reply, from his Palestinian class mates in college.

Wearing a Pathani dress this youth had gone to buy something at eleven in the night. As he was walking an Ambassador car halted and someone came out from it and saluted him in Arabic, since it was dark and thinking that the person could be one of his college mate he replied to the salutation in Arabic. As he did so the others shook hand and said something more in Arabic. When this youth said "what" some one directive came from the drive in the car and the man who was talking to the youth put his hand on the youth face and pushed him nearly toppling him. He sat in the car which sped away. There was no number plate on the car.

When he recalled this incident to some person from the authorities the surmise was that apparently these "foreigner" had been asked to meet someone whom they did not know. When they saw this youth who was in a Pathani dress and looked like the one whom they were supposed to meet they stopped the car and when it came to their notice that he was not the one whom they were supposed to meet and in fact he was not an Arabic speaking person they sped away.

All this is naturally causing worry to the security authorities including the intelligence agencies. However what is worrying them more is the two rumours which spread like wild fire. One pertained to the president which spread all over the country and the second was an Ukai dam which has resulted in panic in Surat and adjoining areas. Scores of people have started leaving Surat because of the rumour that Ukai dam is likely to burst by July 7 or 8.

The question being asked in the Intelligence circles is were these rumours an attempt to check the underground network one at the national level and another at local level? There is so far no clue as to who and from where these rumour started. What could happen if such rumour got currancy pertaining to an assassination or a major disaster?

Coming to light of existance of an organisation like "Kafla-e- Sakh Jan" and the rumours have apparently played some role in the State Government asking the army to be on alert on Sunday the day of the Rathyatra of Lord Jaggannath. In the past the Army was asked to

stand by but this time it has been put on alert and in fact is likely to set up its own control rooms in Ahmedabad.

These facts also explain the pain and the length to which Chief Minister Chhabildas Mehta went to inform the house on Monday that the Government had taken all the possible steps to flush out anti- national elements infiltrators and was undertaking all measures to see that the law and order situation in the State remained peaceful.

Meanwhile, the police have been undertaking combing operation and checking vehicles and people coming into the State. Some arms and ammunition have been recovered during combing operations.

Yet another ISI supported organisation is located in the North East Functioning underground, the main task of this organisation known as 'Assam Muslim Tigers' is to protect the interests of the Muslims in the entire North East.

It is also believed to be recruiting young motivated persons and imparting training to them in fire arms including sophisticated weapons. It is believed by informed circles that through this organisation the ISI could spread its tentacles in West Bengal too.

Conflicting Claims Made on Public Sector Strike

BK1807145294 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 15 Jul 94 pp 1,9

[Text] New Delhi, July 14—The Government and the Left trade unions [TUs] today made conflicting claims on the impact of the one-day strike in the public sector undertakings (PSUs). While the TUs asserted that the strike was "a big success" in all key sectors, the Government dismissed it as "stray and partial" with hardly any impact on the normal working of the PSUs.

The Committee of Public Sector Trade Unions said the strike was almost total in the coal, steel and fertiliser sectors, while the workers' response was highly encouraging in the oil and heavy engineering sectors as well.

Painting a contrasting picture, the Government said that according to reports received in the Chief Labour Commissioner's office here, there was hardly any impact of the strike. Total strike, according to the Government, was restricted to certain PSUs based at Bangalore, while it was stray and partial in the oil, coal and other sectors.

The strike had been called essentially by the Left trade unions in association with their affiliated in the PSUs in pursuance of a long charter of demands which included resumption of wage negotiations in the PSUs, removal of ceiling on bonus, introduction of pension scheme, and implementation of the slab system of dearness allowance.

On a larger plane, the TUs demanded a reversal of the Government's economic policies, particularly with regard to privatisation and disinvestment of public sector equity. They also wanted immediate steps for revival of the sick PSUs.

Addressing a Press conference here this evening, Dr M. K. Pandhe, general secretary of the Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU), said that despite the "eleventh hour" withdrawal by the Indian National Trade Union Congress (INTUC) the strike was largely successful across the country.

He and Mr B. D. Joshi, deputy general secretary of the All-India Trade Union Congress (AITUC) said that notwithstanding the "confusion" created by IINTUC, the "spontaneous" response of the workers was indicative of their mood against the Government's "anti-labour policies".

They said that in many of the PSUs, the officers' organisations actively participated in the strike "adding to the overall success". The National Confederation of Officers Associations of Central PSUs, in a Press statement, said the officers' participation was total in West Bengal, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Kamataka and Goa, while in other States the officers followed suit wherever the majority of workers observed the strike. In Delhi, however, there was no strike, the confederation said.

According to the TUs, the strike in the coal sector, which employs 7.5 lakh of the total 23 lakh PSU workers in the country, ranged anything the strike was from 80 per cent to 100 per cent. In the steel sector the strike was partial in the Bhilai plant, but in others it was successful the TUs claimed. "All fertilisers plants also observed the strike".

In Bangalore, which has a large concentration of PSU establishments, the strike was "total", except for the Hindustan Machine Tools (HMT). The TUs further claimed that at Hyderabad as well, the PSU strike was "successful". In West Bengal, they said, the strike was "total" in most PSUs with the "local strike of, INTUC, too, supporting the strike.

The Government, on the other hand, spoke of the normal working of banks, insurance establishments ports, railways, road and air transport organisations and electricity boards.

While reacting to this, the Left TUs said the banking sector and essential services had been kept out of today's strike, confined as it was to the PSUs.

The TUs, which have already given a call for a "general strike" on Sept. 29, said it would be covering banks and financial institutions as well. That strike would be under the banner of the "Platform of Mass Organisations," which includes a number of other bodies in addition to the TUs.

BJP Launches Campaign Against Rao Government

BK1807150994 Delhi THE PIONEER in English 16 Jul 94 p 2

[Text] New Delhi—The Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP] on Friday [15 July] launched the Bharat Parikrama [circle or march] abhiyan [campaign] "to express the people's anger over the increasing danger to the unity of the integrity of the country posed by anti-national and secessionist forces" by organising a public meeting in Shahdara.

Mr. Pramod Mahajan, national secretary of the Bharatiya Janata Party, East Delhi MP B L Sharma 'Prem', Development Minister Sahib Singh Verma, Health Minister Harsh Vardhan, Food and Civil Supplies Minister Lal Behari Tiwari and others took part in the party's meeting.

The abhiyan is also against the "invasion of our economy by the multi-national companies, and the increasing autocratic tendency of the ruling party," according to a statement of the party here on Friday.

Addressing the meeting, Mr. Mahajan said the last three years of the Narasimha Rao Government would be treated as a black chapter in the history of independent India, because "Mr. Rao, on the one hand, established a new record in the share scam, and on the other, indulged in loot of foreign exchange worth crores of rupees in the purchase of sugar from abroad."

He said an explosive situation has now arisen in the Jammu and Kashmir region.

"In the valley today, it is the terrorist's writ that runs. The Bharatiya Janata Party will prepare public opinion about the likely dangers to the unity and integrity as well as democracy of the country and the increasing crisis of economic freedom and that is why the Bharat Parikrama launched by the party from July 15-September 15," the leader said.

CPI Leader Supports Unifying Communist Parties

BK1707092994 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 17 Jul 94

[Text] The CPI [Communist Party of India] general secretary, Mr. Inderjit Gupta, says his party is for the merger with the CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist]. At a "Meet the Press" program in Nagpur yesterday, he said CPI wants unification of the communist movement, which split 30 years ago. Mr. Gupta blamed the CPI-M for stalling the merger of the two parties. Mr. Gupta said efforts are on to merge Hind Mazdoor Sabha and the All India Trade Union Congress with the unified party.

Iran

Foreign Office Condemns 'Genocide' of Palestinians

NC1907115194 Tehran IRNA in English 1024 GMT 19 Jul 94

[Text] Tehran, July 19, IRNA—A spokesman for the Iranian Foreign Ministry Monday described the recent massacre of Palestinian Muslims in Gaza-Jericho as another proof to the J [as received] that the disgraceful PLO-Tel Aviv accord neglected the rights and security of the Palestinian nation.

Iran from the very beginning held the idea that the tumult made over the accord would not alter the terrorist nature of the Tel Aviv regime and will have no advantage for the oppressed Palestinian people, said Mahmud Mohammadi.

He noted that the recent massacre further proved that the anti-Palestinian and anti-Islamic attitude of the usurper regime had not undergone any change and that the disgraceful accord overlooked the rights and security of the Palestinian nation.

The accord in fact had given a free hand to the Zionists to perpetuate their suppressive acts against Muslims, Mohammadi said.

Condemning the genocide, the spokesman deplored the fact that certain Arab states believed that it was possible to have coexistence with such a criminal regime.

Ministry Spokesman on MKO, Demirel Visit

LD1907180994 Tehran IRNA in English 1720 GMT 19 Jul 94

[Text] Tehran, July 19, IRNA—Foreign Ministry spokesman Mahmoud Mohammadi on Tuesday [19 July] said that the brutal crimes of the terrorist Mojaheden-e Khalq Organization (MKO) have unveiled the terrorist nature of the grouplet and many foreign countries.

The crimes committed by the MKO have also served to politically isolate the Iraq-based terrorist organization and to disgrace its foreign supporters, he said.

He said Pope John Paul II and foreign ministers of some countries have denounced the MKO's bombing of the holy shrine of Imam Reza (AS) in Mashhad on June 20.

Despite the terrorist MKO's failure to achieve its goals in murdering Iranian Christian pastors, attempts to disgrace the Islamic Republic was still on its agenda, added Mohammadi.

According to information obtained recently, the terrorist grouplet may embark on creating incidents at Iranian gatherings abroad, said the spokesman.

Following the shocking blast at Mashhad on the day of Ashura (martyrdom anniversary of Imam Hussein)

which claimed the lives of 26 pilgrims and injured 170 others, the MKO murdered two Christian pastors named Tatabous Mikailian and Mehdi Dibaj, and unsuccessfully tried to plant bombs at the Sunni Muslim Friday prayer congregation in Zahedan, the mausoleum of Imam Khomeyni in Tehran and the shrine of Hazrat Ma'soumeh in holy Qom.

Mohammadi confirmed that Turkish president Suleyman Demirel is due here on a three-day state visit from July 25-27 at the invitation of President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

He said Demirel will be accompanied by a top level political-economic delegation as well as a group of Turkish businessmen and industrialists.

Mohammadi said that ways of expanding mutual ties, regional issues, international developments and cooperation and coordination of the two countries in international forums are among topics to be discussed by the two presidents.

Embassy in Venezuela Protests Allegations

LD1907190394 Tehran IRNA in English 1854 GMT 19 Jul 94

[Text] Tehran, July 19, IRNA—The Iranian Embassy in Caracas in its statement released last night has rejected the allegations of the Venezuelan Government of mistreatment by staff members of a family of Iranian refugees.

The allegations were the cause of expulsion last week of four Iranian diplomats from the Venezuelan capital.

The Iranian Foreign Ministry on Tuesday summoned the ambassador of Venezuela for sounding a protest to the measures against the four Iranian diplomats.

The ambassador of Iran in Caracas Reza Zargarbashi earlier this week met with the Venezuelan foreign minister to protest the action against the four Iranians.

Zargarbashi said he had documented evidence that the Iranian Embassy had even maintained an Iranian family of six in Caracas who lived in a hotel in east Caracas and who, the Venezuelan Government claimed, had been violently treated by the Iranian Embassy.

Clandestine Radio on Expelled Diplomats

NC1907132994 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian 1730 GMT 19 Jul 94

[Station commentary: "The Expulsion of Some So-Called Diplomats of the Clerical Regime"]

[Text] Esteemed listeners: According to reports by foreign agencies, the Venezuelan Government has expelled four so-called diplomats of the clerical regime on charges of attempting to perpetrate an act of terrorism and to abduct an Iranian in Venezuela.

The expulsion of these so-called diplomats by the Venezuelan Government comes shortly after the G-7 summit criticized the clerical regime for perpetrating terrorist acts. The G-7 summit called on Iran to halt its irresponsible conduct and terrorist actions.

There is no doubt that the stance of the Venezuelan Government has had a major impact on public opinion at a time when the clerical regime is defying the views of the world's seven great industrial countries regarding clerical terrorism. This will further confirm that the clerical regime cannot breathe without committing terrorist acts.

It is natural that, as in the past, after committing terrorist acts, the clerical regime should [words indistinct] and deny these terrorist actions of its so-called diplomats in Venezuela. It is the height of audacity and hypocrisy that it should condemn the Venezuelan Government for its stand on the actions of the Islamic Republic's diplomat-terrorists.

The clerical regime runs roughshod over the sovereignty of other countries and has also attacked Iranian dissidents in various countries, threatening their security. Therefore, progressive countries and humanitarian organizations should take a stand against this misanthropic conduct of the clerical regime and its terrorist actions. They should exert serious pressure on this terrorist and terrorist-nurturing regime and should take appropriate and coordinated actions against the terrorist policies of the regime.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Guinean Minister Discuss Cooperation

LD1907180394 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 19 Jul 94

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani today received Mr. Sakho, the minister of energy, natural resources, and environment [name and title as received] of Guinea Konakri.

At the meeting, the president referred to the fact that cooperation with Third World, particularly Muslim, countries is given special priority in Iran's foreign policy. He said: With the joint Iranian-Guinean committee becoming more active, commercial and economic ties between the two countries will be expanded further.

He said cooperation between Iran and Guinea in the expansion and equipping one of the largest bauxite reserves in that country—which in addition to expanding trade will lead to the exchange of technical and scientific experience—was an example of good technical cooperation with the African and Muslim country of Guinea. He stressed the necessity for expanding that cooperation in other common fields.

According to a Central News Unit report, Sakho handed over to our country's president a message of friendship and cooperation from the president, government, and

people of Guinea. He said participating in the second joint session of the two countries and exchanging views on the expansion of cooperation, especially on Iran's participation in the bauxite project, were among the aims of his trip to Iran.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Receives Romanian Assembly Speaker

LD1707180294 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Jul 94

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani today received Adrian Nastase, president of Romania's Assembly of Deputies. During the meeting Mr. Nastase described his talks with our country's parliamentary officials as positive, adding that these talks are highly significant for strengthening the two countries' future cooperation, particularly at parliamentary level.

Referring to the exchange of high-ranking politico-economic delegations between Iran and Romania and the holding of the two countries' recent joint economic session in Bucharest, he said: Relations between Iran and Romania enjoy a good historical background, and in recent years these relations have seen an appropriate expansion in the political sphere. He expressed the hope that within the framework of the Economic Cooperation Organization, grounds would be paved for greater expansion of economic and cultural cooperation and more active participation of the two countries' private sectors in bilateral technical and industrial projects.

During this meeting, the president described Romania's role in the Central European region as important. Referring to the developments in this region and the Balkan region, the president added: Strengthening Romania's stability in Central Europe is highly significant for its neighboring countries and the Balkan region.

The president added: The Islamic Republic of Iran lays emphasis on the just resolution of disputes and maintaining and strengthening stability and peace in the Balkan and the Central European region. We hope that Romania will play a more active role in the realization of this important matter.

Expressing delight at the expansion of ties between Iran and Romania, Hashemi-Rafsanjani asked for greater efforts by the two countries' officials to find new ways of expanding bilateral ties.

'Hostile Insinuations of Certain Countries' Noted

LD1107084594 Tehran IRNA in English 0705 GMT 11 Jul 94

[Text] Tehran, July 11, IRNA—Iran has always been a pioneer in supporting international peace and stability, said a Foreign Ministry spokesman here Monday [11 July] adding that in view of Iran the criteria for the opposition of G-7 members with terrorism is their practical confrontation with the terrorist Mojahedin-e Khalq Organisation (MKO). Foreign Ministry spokesman Mahmud Mohammadi made the remark following the release of the statement of the recent meeting of the Group of Seven industrialized countries in Naples.

In its statement, the G-7 called upon the government of Iran to participate constructively in international efforts for peace and stability.

Mohammadi told IRNA that Iran has always sought strengthening of regional and international peace and stability not only in cooperation with others but as its own initiatives such as measures taken to prevent bloodshed and war in Afghanistan, Karabakh and Tajikistan. The spokesman regretted that realities have given way to hostile insinuations of certain countries. Because, he stressed, no one could ignore the fact that the Islamic Republic of Iran is itself a victim of terrorism by agents being presently supported by some of those same countries.

Mohammadi referred to the bomb blast at the holy shrine of Imam Reza (as) in Mashhad and the murder of Iranian pastors as the peak of inhuman measures taken by the terrorist group.

Voicing Iran's disapproval of any selective approach towards terrorism, Mohammadi stressed that the Islamic Republic was ready as before to counter such an anti-Islamic and despised phenomenon. The Islamic Republic of Iran, he added, strongly condemns resort to terrorism in any form and in any part of the world. He reiterated that in view of Iran the proof for opposition of Group of Seven with terrorism only lies in their practical confrontation with the terrorist MKO whose members and organization are freely active in those countries under different titles.

Editorials View G-7 Summit, Results

Outcome Examined

NC1707125594 Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian 12 Jul 94 p 12

[Unattributed political commentary: "The Naples Session"]

[Text] The heads of the world's seven industrial countries, known as the G-7, met in Naples, Italy, and discussed current events of mutual interest regarding commercial and international problems. The most important aspect of the G-7 leaders decisionmaking process is not necessarily the agreements announced, but that some of these agreements are usually secret and never divulged. None of the leaders will make even the slightest reference to them.

Thus, one cannot pass any specific judgement, for it would be mere speculation and conjecture. In any case, certain subsequent regional and international developments will be directed in a manner that will indicate that the G-7 leaders were well-informed about them.

This is exactly the factor that makes the developing countries skeptical of the G-7 sessions and fuels suspicions that instead of reviewing international issues in a realistic manner, the concern of the G-7 heads is limited to their own particular interests. They are merely trying to decrease their differences over trade instead of paying attention to broader solutions to world economic problems in coordination with all the other countries.

With such doubt and uncertainty—which is not unrealistic—constantly growing, the G-7 summit assumes even greater importance. This is because, after all, these countries do enjoy a measure of dominance in the world. This dominance is enhanced with the advances in technology and their monopoly of it as time passes. Therefore, the Third World and developing countries cannot remain indifferent to these talks and the possible decisions made there. This is especially true since the clearer the stances adopted by the G-7 on the acute political issues, the greater is their general sensitivity on these international issues.

Of course, since the guiding factors in the political conduct of the larger industrial countries are their national and trade interests, they have not been able to act in unison. This has provided a brief respite to those Third World countries that feel under pressure from the demands of the bigger countries. Despite this, it does not appear that their differences are so great that the Third World countries can bank on them.

It would be more realistic to state that despite their conflict of interests, the G-7 have common interests regarding the Third World countries, and that is why they have a joint approach to them. In any case, it could be said that regardless of the reason, the Third World countries can capitalize on the G-7's differences. However, they will not get much of a chance to do so; even though they may have some limited opportunities to maneuver, it will not be enough to throw doubt on the nature of the decisions taken at the G-7 session.

There is no doubt that the G-7 is not a unified or homogeneous body, but it is also not so fragmented that it will be possible to influence any of the members and capitalize on them individually. The G-7 is facing internal differences and difficulties but it still can reach a coordinated stance with regard to outsiders. The danger for the Third World countries lies in this simple truth. Nevertheless, certain Third World countries are inclined to ignore this fact.

What imparts the greatest importance to the G-7's decisionmaking is that some of them are UN Security Council members. This helps the G-7 to play a role in international developments in a covert and complex manner. For example, the G-7 session in Naples has called on the Islamic Salvation Front and Algeria to resolve their differences through political means. This is a mere recommendation, but when we assess the fact that France is a G-7 member and we view its stance on Algerian developments, it transpires that France has put forth this issue at Naples. On closer examination, it is obvious that France is being supported by the G-7 on a political solution to Algeria's problems. In all cases, whenever any of the G-7 member countries proposes issues for discussion, debate, and ratification at a summit, it is because of its own interests. That is why the G-7 session is of great significance.

Among the international issues related to the Islamic world is the partition of Bosnia-Herzegovina, regarding which the G-7 held talks recently. This is not the first time that the destiny of a country and of a people were decided without taking its desires into consideration, but it can be said that it is the most brutal decision of this century. Combating the Islamic Revolution, or what is termed 'fundamentalism,' is one of the pivotal issues suggested by the United States regarding the Islamic Republic of Iran. In this regard, the opinions have varied from immensely optimistic to extremely pessimistic. Even then, one must not underestimate the importance of the decisions made at the Naples session. This is because the decisions there could effect the Islamic world and one should realistically prepare oneself for that. One cannot be too optimistic just because the G-7 does not have a unified stance and some of the countries give priority to their trade relations.

In any case, the Naples session was held in distinctive international circumstances, and the talks and decisions by the heads of the G-7 covered a range of miscellaneous topics. The presence at the talks of the Russian president—who desires membership in the G-7 and wants to transform it into the G-8—has greatly increased the session's importance.

In addition, the murky outlook of international politics and the growing movement toward the formation of fronts and poles based on economic, scientific, and technological factors will heighten the danger of expanding further the chasm between the industrially developed countries and the undeveloped countries of the Third World. In the aftermath of the Cold War, this is a sensitive issue and if the G-7 does not pay attention to it, it will also be the loser in the long term.

Terrorism Stand Criticized

NC1707084194 Tehran HAMSHAHRI in Persian 12 Jul 94 p 1

[Editorial: "The G-7 Statement—New Words, Old Stances"]

[Text] The tone of the political statement of the session of seven industrial countries in Naples shows another aspect of the lack of a unified stance among the industrial and economic giants in the contemporary world. The lenient tone of the statement does not reflect the democratism [preceding word in English as published] of the industrial countries but shows the differences of opinion among them on their interests in various parts of the world. The advocates of Western democracy have

displayed their humanitarianism many times earlier in Iraq, Somalia, Haiti, Panama, Vietnam, Grenada, and so on.

Despite all this, one can say that the most nebulous and perhaps the most lenient clause in the Naples statement pertains to Iran. In this clause, the G-7 leaders have called on Iran to participate constructively in international efforts for peace and stability. Since the Islamic Republic of Iran has never had any interests anywhere in the world based on the disruption of peace and stability, the mention of this "wish" indicates two tendencies among the G-7 leaders:

1. The first group, led by the United States, of which Britain is a member and probably the new Italian prime minister as well, is seeking to exert pressure on Iran to conform to the inclinations and trends favored by the extremist capitalist faction of international capitalism. This group utilizes every opportunity on the international level with different objectives and degrees of pressure in order to intensify pressure on Iran and the previous G-7 sessions were not excluded from such pressure either.

2. The members of the second group led by the Federal German leadership and with all the other members, including France and Japan, are opposed to all kinds of intensification of pressure against the Islamic Republic of Iran. They have clearly realized that the benefits only accrue to the United States and its European ally, Britain. In other words, on the eve of the new twenty-first century, Bonn, Paris, and Tokyo are not inclined to sacrifice their long-term national and economic interest in the sensitive region of the Middle East and the Persian Gulf for the Pentagon's spewing of terminology such as "human rights" and so on.

Thus, it appears that once more, an international capitalist faction has failed in its attempt to isolate the Islamic Republic of Iran. The strategic trends of the contemporary world do not indicate that the balance of power is tilting in favor of this faction.

Meanwhile, the Italian foreign minister elaborated on the official stance of the G-7 countries and has indirectly alluded to the Monafeqin [hypocrites—pejorative term for the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization] in the statement: "The Group of Seven is in favor of Iran acting like us with regard to combating terrorism."

The fact that the Italian foreign minister has been recently appointed, and in general, memory is rather fickle in Western countries, we wish to remind them that in the seventies Italy was grappling with the Red Brigade guerrilla group, Germany with the Baader-Meinhof gang, France with the CRS [expansion unknown] secessionists, Japan with the Japanese Red Army, and finally the United States in its suppression of the purely religious David Koresh cult—all were using tanks and artillery till these groups were finally eradicated. Is this what the Italian prime minister is recommending that Iran should do?

Statement Against Iran Decried

NC1707163294 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 11 Jul 94 pp 1, 14

[Editorial: "A Humiliating Defeat for the Mischiefmongering British!"]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

It was supposed until now that the British are very intelligent and diplomatic. Perhaps this was one of the impressions deliberately created by the British to deceive the people since, in recent years, whatever the mischiefmongering British have done has been based on folly and tactlessness. There are very few people today who would see any indication of intelligence or expertise in the actions of the British echelons in an observation of their performance.

The British officials made frantic efforts this week at the G-7 session in Naples so that they could project the Islamic Republic of Iran as a terrorist country and a supporter of terrorism, and could incorporate this point in the concluding statement of the Naples session. Nearly all the British officials at the Naples session resorted to peddling and groveling, and even presented ludicrous proposals, in their efforts to make the others accept this point. [passage omitted]

According to reports from Naples, along with the British, the U.S. officials also sought to include an anti-Iranian clause in the political-economic statement of the session but it was not welcomed by the others and therefore they faced total defeat.

This phenomenon is in itself eloquent testimony to the fact that the United States and Britain were not able to dictate their malicious viewpoints and opinions against the Islamic Republic of Iran to their allies at the G-7 session of industrial countries of the world. Even though there were many reasons for this, there is no doubt that the heads of the countries at the Naples council were clearly not inclined to fall into the well with the tattered rope of the British and to thus strain their relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran in order to please the British buffoons.

One should ask the wicked British why they support the Monafeqin [hypocrites—pejorative term for Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization] terrorists and cover up their role by simultaneously projecting Iran as a sponsor of terrorism. [passage omitted]

All the facts and figures indicate that the hands of the British were in the latest crimes by the Monafeqin. Serious and constant work should be undertaken so that the British role as an accomplice in the latest atrocities perpetrated by the Monafeqin is clearly exposed and publicized.

Naturally, the black dossier of the Monafeqin, with all their past and present crimes, is not hidden from anyone

and especially not from their supporters. Thus, when the British extend political, logistical and propaganda support to the Monafeqin and even give them broadcasting facilities, it is tantamount to overt support and concurrence in these crimes on their part. Naturally, the London government should pay a heavy penalty for it. But how? This is something that the future will tell.

Ambassador to Turkey on Relations, MKO

LD2007085094 Tehran IRNA in English 0718 GMT 20 Jul 94

[Text] Ankara, July 20, IRNA—A top Iranian diplomat here said the terrorist Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization (MKO) has lost ground in Turkey and some of its members are fleeing while others, after repenting, are approaching the Iranian Embassy for a transit permit. The Iranian ambassador to Turkey Mohammad Reza Baqeri in an interview with the English daily 'TEHRAN TIMES' which was published Wednesday [20 July] said that the deviants approach the Iranian embassy and receive transit permits. The day is not far off when there will be none left here, the ambassador noted.

Commenting on Irano-Turkish relations, Baqeri said that the two countries had their own ups and downs throughout the history but now they are enjoying an 'up' period. Expressing his dissatisfaction over the present level of bilateral political, cultural, economic and trade ties and said that that the bilateral trade stands at dlrs. 800 million while the same figure was around dlrs. 2.5 billion a few years ago. The daily quoted him as saying that previously, Iran sold oil to Turkey and bought various goods from here and now cash transactions are carried out between the two countries. "The current level of reciprocal relations are just the beginning of unprecedented things for the future", the Iranian diplomat remarked.

Commenting on Iran's anti-drug campaign and the country's accords with Turkey and Pakistan, Baqeri underlined that the Islamic Republic of Iran attaches great importance to the elimination of the menace.

On Iran's debts, he said that private Iranian companies owe less than dlrs. 100 million to Turkish ones which is not a big problem. There are certain hands such as those of the Zionists who are always trying to create a gap between Iranians and Turks but so far they have failed in their nasty mission, he added.

He concluded by suggesting that an exchange of news media is a must for Iran and Turkey to understand each other better.

Agreement With Turkey on Transportation Lauded

NC2007075894 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 20 Jul 94

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentaries Group]

[Text] A memorandum of understanding on the expansion of Iranian-Turkish cooperation in the field of transportation has been signed in Ankara. On the basis of this memorandum, which was signed by the two countries' ministers of roads and transportation, the border customs buildings of Bazargan in Iran and of Gurcubulak in Turkey are to be furnished with modern equipment in order to facilitate the transit of vehicles and passengers. Also, the two countries agreed to introduce new regulations in order to end limitations in issuing passes to commercial vehicles carrying goods and passengers.

On the basis of yesterday's agreement between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Turkey, facilities are envisaged for insuring commercial vehicles. Agreement was also reached on accelerating the construction of the Sarakhs-Mashhad railway, which will reach to Van Lake in Turkey. The completion of these railways will mean that the two countries' railways will be linked with the Central Asian and European railways. The two countries also reached agreement on water transport, the use of each other's ports, cooperation in training related to transportation, and exchanges of information on transportation.

Bearing in mind the agreement reached at the ECO [Economic Cooperation Organization] summit in Istanbul, Turkey, on expanding transportation links among members, the Iranian-Turkish agreement is of significance to both bilateral relations and the expansion of regional relations within the ECO framework.

Having been signed on the eve of Turkish President Suleyman Demirel's visit to Iran, the Iranian-Turkish agreement on transportation—covering all aspects of air, sea, and land transportation—is an indication of the further expansion and consolidation of the two countries' strong relations. Demirel is to begin his visit to Tehran on Monday [25 July] at the head of a high-ranking political and economic delegation.

The most important thing about the agreement is that past relations between Tehran and Ankara mostly concentrated on trade but, with the implementation of the recent agreement within the ECO framework, the two countries' relations will be grow due to long- term and infrastructural investments.

Technology Memorandum Signed With Russia

LD0907160194 Tehran IRNA in English 1359 GMT 9 Jul 94

[Text] Tehran, July 9, IRNA—Tehran and Moscow have signed a memorandum of understanding on scientific, research and technological cooperation, minister of culture and higher education Mohammad Reza Golpayegani said upon return from Russia Saturday [9 July].

The agreement was signed by Golpayegani and Russian Minister of Science and Technology Vladimir Kiniliov, he said, while outlining the outcome of his visit to Moscow.

Golpayegani said that while in Russia he had also visited the Russian Academy of Sciences which he said has a 20,000-member personnel and a scientific staff of 60,000 people, with 400,000 research institutes operating under its supervision.

He said that an agreement was also reached between the state-run technical university based in Moscow and Iran's Amirkabir University declaring the two sister universities.

The Iranian official put the number of Iranian students in Moscow at 125 and said that Kiniliov had promised to study the housing problems of the students and prevent their rental from going up.

In his visit to Moscow's Oriental Institute, Golpayegani had held talks with Russian Iranologists and researchers, he said.

TEHRAN TIMES Criticizes West on Bosnia

NC1907120894 Tehran IRNA in English 1012 GMT 19 Jul 94

[Text] Tehran, July 19, IRNA—A morning English daily Tuesday [19 July] criticized the United Nations for preventing Turkish President Suleyman Demirel from paying a visit to Sarajevo under the pretext that the Serbs had threatened to blow up the plane, adding that the "whole episode was orchestrated by the leading Western countries."

'TEHRAN TIMES' wrote in its editorial that preventing the president of a Muslim country from visiting Sarajevo, was another example of how Western supporters of the Serbs are colluding to prevent peace in beleaguered Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The article pointed to the peace plan proposed by the big powers which gives 49 percent of most fertile land to the Serbs while 51 percent to Muslim-Croat coalition, and said that most of the analysts believe that the self-styled Serbian parliament will reject any peace proposal that requires the Serbs to give up their ill- gotten gains.

"Serbian rejection of such a lucrative and advantageous proposal," it noted "is rooted in the covert, but wholehearted, support they receive from London, Moscow and Paris."

It argued in conclusion that the Western supporters of the Serbs were to drag the peace process until winter when the bitter cold will further deteriorate Bosnian military strength, eventually reaching a point when they will have to accept all the outrageous demands of the Serb aggressors.

British Stand on Human Rights Criticized

NC1507094694 Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian 12 Jul 94 pp 1, 2

[Editorial: "Britain—Contradiction in Word and Deed"]

[Text] A few days ago, British Assistant Foreign Secretary Linda Chalker denounced the murder of two clergymen by the Monafeqin [hypocrites—pejorative term used for the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization, MKO] and called on Iran to permit Galindo Pohl to visit our country in order to appraise the human rights situation.

This malicious statement expresses concern about the harassment and persecution of Christians in Iran. The British media have used the aforementioned incidents to portray Iran as anti-Christian and the religious minorities as being in danger. Washington is following a similar policy and the U.S. mass media are emulating their British counterparts by means of a coordinated propaganda campaign. By reporting on the murder of the pastors, Israeli radio also promotes the impression that anti-Christian sentiments prevail in Iran.

If these policies are viewed alongside the policies and objectives announced by the Monafeqin's so-called National Resistance Council at their recent session, we can fully comprehend the precise planning and coordination of these policies. Important documents recently obtained regarding the conclusions reached at that session stated that the so-called National Resistance Council should muster all its resources to fan national, religious, and ethnic differences. This would create conditions for an internal crisis and would also elicit protests from the international community and Western governments against Iran.

In the past few days, the posturing of the British and U.S. mass media and the officials of those two countries seems to be undeniably synchronized with the Monafeqin's stance. Amnesty International in London, which is influenced by British and American policies, issued a statement denouncing the repeated violation of human rights in Iran and calling for greater pressure on it.

In its report on the murder of the two clergymen in Iran, the BBC cited Iran's animosity toward Christianity and insinuated that Iran was involved in the incident. The BBC invited the usual personalities such as Ahmad Salamatyan, Jahangir Behruz, Mansur Farhang, and others of their ilk to speak. By ignoring the facts and irrefutable documentary evidence of the Monafeqin's involvement, the BBC used the current circumstances to present an inaccurate picture of Iran.

In a blatantly contradictory stance, the British charge d'affaires in Tehran claimed that the British Government is well aware of the terrorist actions of the Monafeqin and does not support them. Why the contradiction? Does the Government of Great Britain imagine that these conflicting remarks will benefit them?

There is no doubt that the British Government openly supports the Monafeqin in pursuit of certain very clear objectives. The British Government is using all the means at its disposal to carry out the intentions of the Monafeqin, which are to create national and religious differences. Despite claims of press independence and freedom, the British media have in recent days refrained

from carrying any condemnation of this incident against Iranian religious minorities or the remarks of the arrested Monafeqin. They are instead disseminating fabricated and baseless falsehoods, which demonstrates the British Government's lack of sincerity.

Islamic Iran should officially, and on various political and economic levels, confront these inauspicious and vindictive policies. Merely summoning the British charge d'affaires and criticizing the British stance is not enough. This is just the normal procedure and cannot be considered an appropriate response to the unwise policies of the British Government.

Emami-Kashani Blames West for Creating Tension

LD1507132594

[Editorial Report] Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian at 1030 GMT on 15 July broadcasts a 61-minute recording of the Friday sermons delivered by Ayatollah Mohammad Emami-Kashani, member of the Guardian Council, at Tehran University earlier the same day.

The first sermon deals with the wages of sin and other religious issues. In the second sermon, starting at 1109 GMT, he includes the following issues:

1) He reaffirms Iran's opposition to the Israelis who, he claims, are the real terrorists and hostage takers, despite the G-7 statement.

2) He claims that the West trains terrorists.

3) He reiterates the view that the killing of Christian priests was a plot to sow discord among Iranian Christians and Muslims.

4) He discusses security and the latest peace plan for Bosnia. In this regard he states:

"The Islamic Republic system has always supported security. It says there should be calm. Not that the Zionists should have security; they are thieves, they should go. You [the West] yourselves create insecurity. Who supported Bosnia? Who supported the criminal Serbs and made Bosnia the way it is? You came and divided the home of Muslims into two parts. You gave 49 percent of it to the criminal Serbs. That means, you gave them a medal of honor. You gave a medal of honor to thieves and murderers.

"That is what you are. And then you advertise that you are supporters of security and human rights. This kind of human rights. And you gave 50 percent of the land of Muslims to Croats. Did you then become supporters of human rights?

"You tore Yemen to pieces. Thank God, it is now calm. But you were disgraced. Those involved were disgraced. The people of Yemen suffered a great deal, their lives, their property, their integrity. But eventually you were disgraced. So much tension created.

"In Afghanistan, in Palestine, and here and there you did such and such. Your policy is to disrupt and create disorder. So, are you then supporters of human rights and security? And does Iran trample on human rights and disrupt security? Iran has shown in every way that it seeks security, security in the region.

"And they would disrupt security in the region in any way they can. But this Islamic system is making its statement with wisdom and intelligence, standing tall and steadfast and with a firm logic. And the justice-seeking world follows the Islamic Republic of Iran. And such remarks will not affect our Islamic system and solidarity."

Velayati Views 'Distorted Image' of Country

AU1007165994 Zagreb DANAS in Serbo-Croatian 5 Jul 94 pp 38-39

["Exclusive" interview with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati by Mihailo Nicota in Crans-Montana; date not given]

[Text] At the recently held fifth annual conference of the World Forum in Crans-Montana from 16 to 19 June, Iran had its two grand European opening nights. In that elite resort in the Swiss southern Alps in just one afternoon, a big Iranian representative group of some 20 members, consisting of ministers and private businessmen, launched a well-organized and, it seems, successful offensive within the framework of "operation charm" aimed at showing the "real" and "attractive" face of their country to West, Central, and East Europe. The chief protagonist of that "operation" was Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

First night: The organizers from the Forum Universale company honored Iran by devoting the opening part of this year's conference to this country. On Thursday, 16 June, all day the Regent Congress Center was packed with Iranians and all the talk was about Iran. First, in four so-called workshops, Iranian ministers of economy and officials explained the policy of their government concerning privatization and the private sector, concerning oil, gas, and generally energy, foreign trade, and investments and the banking system. The highlight of the "show" was the evening plenary session on the topic: Iran's international relations. Roland Dumas, former French foreign minister, chaired the session, and Velayati presented a detailed report on that topic. After that he answered questions, some unpleasant, posed by participants and reporters. The other great opening night was also a historical moment: Thanks to a satellite link, the Euronews TV station—which "covers" an area of some 16 million viewers—"brought" on the big screen in the Congress hall Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, who replied to Dumas' questions from his office in Teheran!

The purpose of the entire show was to change the "distorted image" that Europe has of Iran. Briefly, the following points had to be proven: Iran is not trying to export its Islamic revolution; its solidarity with Islamic integrating movements is only verbal, just as its aid to the Muslims in Bosnia is only humanitarian and financial; and in its relations with the West, Tehran is trying to conduct a "realistic policy" and, first and foremost, develop economic ties. Iran appeared in Crans-Montana as a country that, through its dynamics and great potentials—it is second in the world in oil and gas resources—is becoming a regional power that is trying to develop cooperation particularly with the countries of the former Soviet Union in the region of Central Asia and the Caspian Sea, just as it is trying to play the role of mediator in regional conflicts.

During our brief encounter in the foyer of the Congress Center, Minister Velayati told us more about some important points of his presentation.

[Nicota] What are your impressions now, after a very lively debate at the session devoted to Iran? Will the image that the world has of Iran change for the better now after your presentation, the presentation by your associates and the Iranian businessmen, and particularly after the spectacular "appearance" in the hall by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani?

[Velayati] I am personally honored to have been given an opportunity to address the plenary session dedicated to Iran. We have thus been given the chance to present in a much more realistic way and with the assistance from several relevant authorities all the elements that are necessary for the understanding of our country, which is—as is known—the heir to one of the richest cultures and oldest civilizations in human history. Over the last 15 years, ever since the Islamic Revolution was victorious in Iran, some international political circles for various reasons—some open and some concealed—have tried to pervert the facts about our country, and to neglect its reality. This created a distorted image of the Islamic Republic of Iran. For this reason I particularly appreciate meetings such as this one, where views can be exchanged directly and openly, which in turn leads to a clearer picture of reality.

[Nicota] In your report you stressed three important features of the Iranian society: Democracy, stability, and safety. On what evidence do you base this conclusion?

[Velayati] Unfortunately, the biased media have not allowed the world public to see the truth about Iranian society and Iran's position. Therefore, the world has no real knowledge of the great steps made by the Islamic Republic in reviving democracy in the country, and in establishing stability and security in our region. As for democracy, I would like to stress the following: Ever since the Islamic Revolution—even during the extremely hard conditions caused by the Iraqi aggression and the destruction of the eight-year war—the Islamic Republic of Iran has never failed to ask the people. It has always allowed the people to take part in all the important decision-making. During the period of 15 years we have had 12 general referendums and elections, among other things for the adoption of the constitution, and for the election of the president and members of parliament.

[Nicota] What is Iran's position in the region and wider? How is Iran proving its stability and security?

[Velayati] Even only a cursory look at the internal political situation in many countries in that region clearly shows how important the democracy that prevails in Iran is, and the internal stability that accompanies it. The significance of stability and security in Iran, and its special geostrategic position, can be understood better if one looks at the sea of trouble that surrounds Iran, at the tension and conflicts. I believe it is enough to cast a look at the situation in, for example, Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Nagorno-Karabakh, and in the entire Caucasus.

[Nicota] In your report you made a clear connection between the situation in that region as opposed to the stability and security in Iran, and the arrival of an enormous wave of refugees in your country, something the world knows very little about. Where do these refugees come from, how many of them are there, and what is their status?

[Velayati] The arrival of about 4 million refugees from Afghanistan, Iraq, and the Caucasus clearly shows the insecurity, instability, and tensions that prevail in the region around us. One quarter of all the refugees in the world are now in Iran. However, the long-term stay of the refugees represents a very serious burden on the national economy and on the society in general, particularly in the postwar period of reconstruction, in which we have to invest $500 billion! Although it is a well-known fact that refugees are an international responsibility, the aid from the international community and its cooperation with Iran has never been in proportion with the real size of the problem and the material needs of the refugees. I can tell you openly and briefly: The international community is generally ignoring the great sacrifices made by Iran.

[Nicota] On the contrary, many in the world have been accusing Iran of being dangerous for its neighbors, of exporting its Islamic revolution. We have heard quite the opposite from you here. What is the real truth about Iran?

[Velayati] It is the biased propaganda by some circles in the world I spoke about. Let me give you some facts, for example, about the national economy. Over the last few years, ever since the war ended, most of the Iranian budget has been directed at the economic, social, and cultural development, and particularly at the program of reconstruction. Despite grave difficulties, we have already made great progress in the reconstruction of the areas destroyed in the war that was imposed on us. In accordance with the policy of rebuilding trust in the region, and in spite of the sensitive and provocative situation in it, Iran has devoted only 1.5 percent of its

annual budget to defense. This is the smallest proportion of the budget in the region devoted to military costs.

[Nicota] In an attempt at correcting the distorted image of Iran in the world, you explained at length the "constructive role" of your country in the efforts at solving the regional crises, and establishing security in the region. Could you please outline the main characteristics of that policy?

[Velayati] The constructive role of Iran in the efforts to solve some regional crises is not unknown to careful and impartial observers. Here are a few examples: We are making efforts toward the solution of the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh; we are offering our services in Tajikistan; we are mediating toward halting the civil war in Afghanistan and giving humanitarian aid to that country; during the crisis created by the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait, we cooperated fully and effectively with the international organizations and the countries in the region; and finally, despite everything, we are participating—together with other countries in the region—in the efforts to preserve the territorial integrity of Iraq. There is obviously a principled approach to the sensitive and strategically important area of the Persian Gulf. Despite the potential danger of an armed conflict in our neighborhood aimed against our national interests and security, Iran adopted a constructive policy during the crisis in Kuwait and the Gulf War. These are cases that provide clear evidence of Iran's true commitment to peace, stability, and peaceful coexistence in this very important region. This policy encompasses Iran's proposal to establish security arrangements between the countries in the region of the Persian Gulf that would lead to the grinding down in the arms race in the region, and would enable a safe flow of oil. It would also contribute to the establishment of mutual trust among the countries in the area.

[Nicota] What is the role of Islam in Iranian politics and in the world generally?

[Velayati] The modern civilized world should not allow the repetition of the Bosnian tragedy. However, the essential condition for that is tolerance toward different beliefs, respect for different cultural values, and a sincere effort toward mutual understanding. Recent experience shows that the rejection of these principles leads to division among peoples. Islam, as a religion of tolerance and coexistence, has the role to nurture understanding among different peoples. This is the foundation of Iran's international policy.

Jannati Elected Secretary of Guardian Council

LD2007102994 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 20 Jul 94

[Text] At today's session of the Guardian Council the bill on the Iranian Government joining the agreement on increasing support for and guaranteeing investments between Islamic Conference Organization member countries was reviewed and approved.

Also at the session the bill on the list of nongovernmental public organizations and institutes, which had been rejected by the Guardian Council and returned to the Majles with amendments, was reviewed and, considering the amendments, was found not to be contrary to religious standards and the Constitution.

At today's session Ayatollah Jannati was elected as secretary, Ayatollah Emami-Kashani as spokesman, and Mr. 'Alizadeh as deputy secretary of the Guardian Council.

Meshkini Gives Qom Sermon 15 Jul

LD1607164794 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1348 GMT 16 Jul 94

[Second sermon of Qom Friday prayers given by Ayatollah 'Ali Akbar Meshkini in Qom on 15 July—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. [passage omitted] I would like to mention briefly a number of issues. If I talk about Afghanistan, please do not say that I should not talk about the situation in Afghanistan every single Friday. If I talked about Afghanistan every single day it would not be enough because the problem is grave.

How long should a nation fight? It has been fighting around 14 years or longer. Very well. They use weapons. Where do they get those weapons? Whatever income those poor people have is spent on weapons. For a while they fought the atheism of the former Soviet Union, and now they are giving money for weapons to kill each other and to destroy each others' homes. It is very regrettable. Brothers and sisters, for God's sake pray that Afghanistan will be rid of the evil of a few individuals [leaders of the warring sides]. [crowd chants Amen]

How many years should they fight? Gentlemen, you know that it is easy to destroy but difficult to build. If destruction rages somewhere for 14 years, how many years will it take for the people to reconstruct their country?

I call on the Afghan officials, some of whom are members of the clergy, to come to their senses, God willing.

The Egyptian Government makes a new decision every single day to suppress the Egyptian Muslims, to fight them, to kill them or capture them—to suppress the Islamists. What do the Islamists say? They say that Egypt is an Islamic country, and Islamic law should be implemented there. It is an Islamic country and not an American slave, which would let it be said that its government should be an American one. [sentence as heard]

The same applies to the Government of Algeria, which makes a new plan each day to fight its own nation and kill the people. It asks France for help to fight its own nation.

We praise the visit by the Azeri president to Iran, his meetings with our country's leaders, and the most beneficial and appropriate agreements that were concluded, and we offer our thanks. God willing, the two Islamic countries will become closer to each other and benefit from each other.

I have a question for all of those states that advocate human rights and opposition to terrorism; Iran and the Iranian nation have a question for the governments who claim to observe human rights: If you are so much against terrorism and say that terrorism must be eradicated, then in a place of worship...[pauses] In a sacred place where people go for worship, where his holiness Imam Reza is, where there is free access, where there are no arms... [pauses] A few people come and assassinate so many human beings, kill them in their innocence, and those states do not make a sound. Why don't they say that that action is evil. At least let them condemn the act. At least let them say that act is wrong! I am astonished at those states with all of their claims! At least condemning the terrorist act is something! We hope, God willing, that they at least understand what they are saying. [passage omitted]

Pakistan

Diplomats Expelled by India Return, Make Statement

BK2007095994 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 20 Jul 94

[Text] The two diplomats attached to the Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi who were asked by the Indian Government to leave the country arrived in Lahore yesterday. These diplomats—Sub-secretary Nasiruddin Ahmad and Staff Officer Mohammad Afzal Bajwa—and the members of their families were received by the employees of the Foreign Office. Bajwa told newsmen that he was assaulted by more than 12 policemen in plain clothes in New Delhi when he was shopping. He said he was beaten and taken to a police station where the process of violence was continued to produce a statement that satisfied the Indian Government. He said that, during the three hours in police custody, one of his shoulders was dislocated. Nasiruddin Ahmad said violent handling of diplomats is against the code of conduct, which India has already signed.

Two More Chinese Engineers Abducted in Kasur

BK1907134394 Lahore JANG in Urdu 19 Jul 94 p 3

[Editorial: "Abduction of Two Chinese Engineers"]

[Text] The abduction of foreign experts has become a serious problem in some parts of Sindh and Balochistan. The hostages held by Afghan leader Mullah Rocketi had not even been released yet when six more people, including two Chinese engineers, were abducted in Kasur. Foreign experts refused to work at the Guddu Thermal power plant project following the incident. Work has been stopped at a number of projects in Sindh and Balochistan because of the abduction of foreign experts. Such unpleasant incidents have been seen in the past in Sindh's interior, where terrorists and saboteurs are active.

The Sindh Government has failed to control these incidents in Sindh's interior. Prominent traders, industrialists, and government officers are sometimes abducted from posh areas and cities such as Hyderabad. The abductors have not been caught, nor have such incidents been stopped. Despite the Army's presence, the situation in Sindh cannot be brought under control. The law and order problem has not be solved, nor have the roadways been made safe to travel.

With all of these incidents, the Sindh Government cannot claim success in solving the law and order problem. Criminals involved in serious crimes have not been punished severely. Instead, the saboteurs and terrorists handed over to the police by the Army have been acquitted by the courts. It is necessary for the Sindh Government to stop making claims and get serious about solving the law and order problem. Stringent punishments should be imposed on arrested criminals. This is the only way how such crimes can be controlled.

Radio: PRC's Haotian Assails Indian Nuclear Program

BK1907103594 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Commentary by Ejaz Hussain]

[Text] Once again India's massive military build up is being criticized by the peace-loving nations. Almost every country in the South Asian region is highly apprehensive about the growing Indian military might. The International Organization of Strategists and Analysts maintains that India's nuclear and missile program is the major threat to the regional peace and balance of power. Asia with the region would plunge into a high intensity conflict, if the increase in New Delhi's stockpile is not checked.

The defense minister of China, Mr. Chi Haotian, who is leading a high powered delegation and is on a four-day visit to Pakistan has expressed his deep concern over human rights violations committed by Indian forces in held Kashmir. Expressing his views about India's military and nuclear program, he said this is not the age of confrontation. He criticized India's irrational approach toward becoming a regional power. He was deeply concerned over India's hegemonistic designs in the Indian Ocean.

Mr. Haotian met prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, yesterday and discussed with her in detail bilateral and multilateral issues. He reaffirmed China's traditional and perpetual support to Pakistan on all regional and global issues. He told the prime minister that there should be an even-handed approach toward the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT]. He said it is equally obligatory upon India to put its efforts in making South Asia a nuclear-free zone exactly the way Pakistan and other regional states think about this growing menace in the region. He said that the international law about the capping of arms and nonproliferation of nuclear weapons is evenly applicable to India and Pakistan and all other regional contenders. Mr. Haotian said that Beijing and Islamabad share a splendid history of 40 years of cordial diplomatic relations. He further added that Sino-Pak relations despite heavy odds in their neighborhood have remained warm and unbreakable. He said that both the counties have similar pros and cons and have always helped each other in the hour of need. He reiterated that China would support Pakistan's stance on Kashmir, especially on human rights issue and on signing of the NPT.

He also called on the president, Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari, and exchanged views with him on international and regional affairs. He said China wants peace in the region and opposed the hegemonistic designs of certain regional powers. It is a matter of great concern that instability in South Asia will augur well for the entire world. So, the leaders of the (?third) new world are sincerely committed toward peace and prosperity in every nook of the globe. So, if India keeps flexing its military muscle by Prithvis and Agnis [missiles], other ambitious countries of the world would also do the same. Because, aggression against any state is aggression against the entire world community as we all belong to the same planet which is already full of problems.

Editorial Sees 'U.S. Tilt Toward India'

BK1107152094 Islamabad THE NATION in English 10 Jul 94 p 6

[Editorial: "U.S. Tilt Toward India"]

[Text] The latest report on the US efforts to prevent nuclear proliferation in South Asia, according to THE WASHINGTON POST, is that these are finished. The reason for their early demise is that India is unwilling to be equated with Pakistan, which it reportedly terms 'small potatoes'. It considers itself in the same league as China. The Indian plea has readily been accepted by the US administration, not because of its validity but because it fits nicely into the US' own strategic perception in which India is the centre-piece or the local policeman of the region. Another dimension of this ready acceptance of an obviously dishonest plea is more subtle. It goes back to US' inherent mistrust of China, the latest manifestation of which is the US campaign against China's human rights record. The Indian approach is clever in the sense that it plays on US sensitivities and exploits pre-conceived notions of India being the largest democracy of the world. That it has nothing to do with ground realities in Asia, is obvious. India has had only one conflict with China, but has mended its fences since and signed various agreements with it. And yet when India says that its 'security problems include China', US swallows the fiction, hook, line and sinker. Only recently the US was willing to risk its huge trade with China on its human rights concern. And yet what China may or may not have done is a very small fraction of what India is doing in Kashmir. In the ambit of US' forgiveness of India come the massive genocide of the Kashmiri Muslims, India's huge nuclear programme, and its development of weapons of mass destruction. It only goes to show that even great powers have their blind spots.

Given the level of gullibility in the US or the US' deliberate turning a blind eye to both its major international concerns (nuclear non-proliferation and human rights), there is a message for Pakistan. The message is that the US' tilt to India may be final. Pakistan's efforts to match India's claim on US attention, of which President Farooq Leghari's visit to the US was a part or even the expectation that the US will try to live up to its ideal of moral leadership of the world, are futile. Whatever pressure Pakistan had accepted so far on its nuclear programme and acquisition of missile technology, must be reviewed now. Other avenues for obtaining arms must be explored. Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali's visit to Russia and Ukraine ought to have been planned much earlier. It must be followed up now. Pakistan must also weld the country into a strong fortress. It should strengthen its bonds with its traditional friends, including China. There may be difficult times ahead.

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